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DIDO TALKS TO METRO ABOUT
WRITING AND THE MELTING
POT OF INFLUENCES ON HER
NEW ALBUM

PAGE 39

No Metro
on FridayMetro will not be publishing
over the Easter weekend.
We'll be back on MondayTAX
FREE

MARCH 30



wicker emporium



IT'S A SWEEP FOR MOOSEHEADS

Halifax Mooseheads, from left, Jonathan Drouin, Nathan MacKinnon and Stefan Fournier celebrate a first-period goal against the Saint John Sea Dogs at Harbour Station on Wednesday. The Herd won 6-1 to eliminate the Sea Dogs from the playoffs in four straight games.

Story, page 52. JEFF HARPER/METRO

2 schools up
for review**Debate.** Board opts to
save one HRM facility
from possible closure

Quoted

"In the long run, for your-
selves and your children, it
will be the best thing."HRSB member Kirk Arsenault
on reviewing schoolsOne north-end Halifax elemen-
tary school has been saved
from the chopping block, but
another will face a review for
possible closure after a heated
Halifax Regional School Board
meeting Wednesday.After more than two-and-a-
half hours of debate, the board
decided on a review for Joseph
Howe School.But when it came to St.
Joseph's-Alexander McKay
School, the board's vote was
split 5-5, which was enough to
avoid a review.The board also voted to re-
view the Terence Bay site of
Atlantic Memorial-Terence Bay
Elementary.Many members took issue
with the review process itself,
noting some schools, includ-
ing St. Joseph's-Alexander, have
been up for possible review sev-
eral times in the past six years.Board member Sheryl
Blumenthal-Harrison, who
abruptly left a public meetingon Tuesday in protest of the
process, made passionate pleas
throughout the night not to re-
view any of the schools, saying
she was "disgusted.""It takes a village to raise a
child," she said, speaking of the
Terence Bay site. "This is part of
what holds this village together,
this small rural community
school."But board member Kirk Ar-
senault noted that reviewing
a facility does not necessarily
mean imminent closure."The answers you want, the
things that you want, can come
out of a review," said Arsenault.Terry Hay, whose 12-year-
old son attends St. Joseph's-
Alexander, said she's happy the
school isn't being reviewed, but
said there are still many unan-
swered questions about how
the review process works.

ALY THOMSON/METRO



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Finance minister responds to budget skepticism



Finance Minister Maureen MacDonald says the Dexter government has overcome a projected year-end deficit of nearly \$300 million to balance the fiscal blueprint for the next year. METRO/FILE

Money matters. NDP government promises balanced budget for 2013-14, despite significant deficit projections for 2012-13



HALEY RYAN
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Facing skepticism about a multimillion-dollar deficit, the provincial finance minister promised a business audience she will deliver a balanced budget without resorting to "draconian" measures.

After a speech to the Halifax Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, Finance Minister Maureen MacDonald said her government overcame a "steep hill" to eliminate the projected deficit of nearly \$300 million for 2012-13 — and the budget tabled on April

Quoted

"We think there's a lot of fiction in what we're hearing today." Liberal MLA Diana Whalen

4 will be balanced.

"We've worked very, very hard on the expenditure side and next week you will see the details of how we got there," said MacDonald.

Liberal MLA Diana Whalen attended the meeting and said her party is watching for "sleight of hand" from the government.

"It's very unlikely this is going to be done without harm to essential services," she said. "We've already had deep cuts in education in particular, and we'll be on the lookout to see where the cuts are coming."

MacDonald said the budget was balanced without resorting to "the draconian measures we have seen other governments take," such as cutting into health care and other services.

"We had a four-year plan;

we did it very systematically, and incrementally, and the results will be in the budget," MacDonald said.

In her speech, the minister told the Chamber of Commerce that the small-business income-tax rate will drop from 3.5 to three per cent this budget.

She said it's vital for businesses to have a good tax environment because they're important to the future of Nova Scotia, and have experienced sluggishness in the economic recovery.

Paula Gallagher, Chamber of Commerce chair, said the government has heard the concerns of local business owners and operators.

"We've got no reason to believe they won't deliver on the budget," she said.

\$27-million budget omission political, not financial: Opposition

Provincial opposition members say the decision not to inform the public of a \$27-million overstatement in last year's budget was politically motivated.

The legislature's public accounts committee met Wednesday morning, where deputy minister of finance Liz Cody explained the figure was immaterial relative to the entire budget.

"I think the minister was recognizing that this was, in the grand scheme of

things, one-third of one per cent on a total budget of over \$9 billion," Cody said of former finance minister Graham Steele.

Cody, who was not the deputy minister at the time, said the finance department only found out about the overdraft on March 2, after the cutoff date for adding to or changing the budget.

She said the department reported the mistake to the Treasury Board when officials learned of the error, a

few days before the budget address.

Liberal MLA Andrew Younger said the government "tried to run away from this and make excuses" instead of admitting the mistake.

"(Steele) stood up in the house and said they had beat their Back to Balance targets by \$5 million. In fact they were short by \$22 million," said Younger.

PC Party Leader Jamie Baillie questioned Cody

during the meeting and said Steele misled the public.

"Two decisions were made: one, not to fix the \$27 million error and, two, not to tell people about it on budget day. That was a political decision," Baillie said afterward.

Baillie said while the amount wasn't significant to the overall budget, it would be for the average Nova Scotian — and they should have been informed.

HALEY RYAN/METRO



PC Party Leader Jamie Baillie is accusing the NDP government of playing politics with the decision not to reveal a \$27-million discrepancy in the last provincial budget. METRO FILE

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School board halts grade reconfiguration



Halifax Regional School Board members listen to a presentation by Ron Heiman, director of operations services, on Wednesday night. ALY THOMSON/METRO

Decision deferred.
Board members want more information



Some Grade 9 students in the municipality won't be moving in with high school students quite yet.

A Halifax Regional School Board staff report had recommended the new grade configuration, but board members decided to defer the matter at a meeting on Wednesday, saying they needed more information on the move.

The report said the Grade 9-12 configuration would be determined based on the need within the family of schools when considering enrolment,

funding and the condition of facilities.

The report said with declining enrolment, decreased funding and aging facilities, resources need to be used "as efficiently as possible."

It said moving Grade 9 students to high schools would increase student engagement and success.

But board member Dave Wright said he had some concerns with the six-page report.

"I didn't feel the report was strong," said Wright, who made the original motion for the report. "I certainly didn't feel it was strong enough to justify a system I would roll out."

Lockview

- Lockview High School already has a Grade 9-12 configuration.

Member Bridget Boutilier noted she has heard concerns from parents about potential social impacts of moving the students into high schools.

If the grade reconfiguration is eventually approved, a committee consisting of students, staff and school-advisory councils would then be formed to assist with the transition, staff said.

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March 25 – March 30

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Environmental transit. Federal tax helps buy new buses for HRM

The municipality says it has directed more than \$13 million of its federal gas-tax allocation to help pay for 22 new environmentally friendly buses in Metro Transit's fleet.

Mayor Mike Savage, Conservative MP Greg Kerr, and several municipal councillors were on hand for the announcement at the Metro Transit bridge terminal in Dartmouth on Wednesday.

The municipality will provide the remaining \$2.5 million of the \$16.1 million project, a news release said.

Savage said the municipality currently receives \$23.3 million per year from the gas-tax fund, and with a two per cent indexing beginning in 2014-15, that's set to increase to about \$34 million per year over 20 years.

"That's very significant," Savage told reporters.



HRM Mayor Mike Savage
METRO FILE

Savage said regional council will determine how the gas-tax funds are allocated in the upcoming budget year.

A news release said the buses will help reduce diesel emissions and improve air quality. ALY THOMSON/METRO

Online ad for sitter

Woman charged with fraud, theft wants to keep selling dogs

A woman charged with fraud in the sale of a pair of dogs has asked a Nova Scotia provincial court judge to allow her to continue selling dogs.

Arguments on Gail Benoit's request will be heard in court April 4 in Bridgewater.

Benoit has been charged with fraud, theft under \$5,000 and identity fraud.

She was charged earlier

this month after police investigated complaints from a woman in Saint John who had placed an online ad looking for a dog sitter for her two boxers.

Police say a woman from Nova Scotia responded to the ad and the dogs were sent to Halifax to be cared for on a temporary basis.

The owner of the dogs says she eventually lost contact with the person who was taking care of them.

After a three-week investigation, police in Bridgewater recovered the dogs and they were returned to the owner. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Crime. Police still looking for thieves after stolen hot tub returned

So the hot tub is back but investigators with Halifax Regional Police are still trying to figure out who took it.

Police say the hot tub, which weighs several hundred pounds, was stolen from a home in the 6000 block of Coburg Road sometime between March 8 and 19.

"The homeowner came back from vacation and noticed the hot tub was gone," said Halifax Regional Police Const. Pierre Bourdages on Wednesday afternoon. "Given the portability and size of it,

there was probably several people involved."

But on Wednesday night, police issued a release saying they were contacted by the owner to say the stolen hot tub was returned to his yard sometime on March 24 or March 25.

Police say there were no witnesses to the hot tub being returned. Bourdages said the backyard is fenced, and nothing else was taken, suggesting the thieves may have known exactly what they were looking for. **RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO**

Dartmouth

Cops look for suspect in bank robbery

Halifax police are investigating a bank robbery that happened in Dartmouth Wednesday afternoon.

Police say it happened around 3:15 p.m. at the CIBC branch at 56 Portland Street when a man walked into the bank, threatened the staff, and demanded cash.

As the suspect was leaving, he got into an altercation with a patron, and fled on foot with an undisclosed amount of money. No one was hurt. **METRO**

Counting down to a campus-wide butt-out

Tobacco-free. SMU launches a clock to mark the days, hours, minutes and seconds until tobacco use is prohibited on campus property

KAYLA WOODSIDE
halifax@metronews.ca

Students at Saint Mary's University now have a clear and present reminder of time winding down to the day the university goes completely tobacco-free.

"We're helping people live a balanced lifestyle where they

No pun intended?

"It's a slow burn to create change."

Gabe Morrison, VP finance and administration



Saint Mary's University president Colin Dodds and SMU Students' Association vice-president of student life Carrigan Desjardins watch as the countdown to a tobacco-free campus gets underway. KAYLA WOODSIDE/FOR METRO

have healthy habits and make good choices," said Gabe Morrison, vice-president of finance and administration.

As of Sept. 1 students will no longer be able to use any type of tobacco product anywhere on the campus. The countdown to Sept. 1 is being marked

in days and hours on a large plasma-screen TV on the wall of the atrium building. The screen was turned on Wednesday afternoon.

"We're definitely looking forward to being the first university in Atlantic Canada to be tobacco-free," Carrigan Desjar-

dins, vice-president of student life at Saint Mary's University said.

"It may be difficult at first but I think once students get on board and realize how great it is for their health, it's really going to excel."

Students who are caught smoking or chewing on SMU property will be asked to leave the grounds, even if that means just stepping onto the roadside curb.

Nova Scotia's Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Robert Strang said 29 per cent of students are smokers, and his goal is to encourage them to quit.

That message didn't resonate well with everyone.

"It's a load. If we get kicked off campus, where are we going to go? Tobacco use is rampant among teenagers my age. So what? You're going to kick 30 per cent of students out?" said student and smoker Richard Gould. "It's a habit, it goes good with coffee."

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Car still missing after second day of search

No luck. RCMP don't know who was driving the car that plunged off Englishtown ferry Monday evening

A sonar device found no trace of a car that mysteriously plunged off the Englishtown ferry and into the icy depths of St. Ann's

Bay on Monday evening.

Police were unable to locate the vehicle by late Wednesday, and had no new leads on who might be inside the vehicle.

Swift currents, cold temperatures, wind and pack ice hampered search efforts for recovery crews during part of the day. "They haven't found anything at all," said RCMP Staff Sgt. Craig Yorke on Wednesday evening. "The waters are calmer

Quoted

"We're trying to figure out the answers to it and that's going to take some time."

RCMP diver Const. Darryn Sampson

and they're able to see the bottom, but they can't see anything at all. The only thing that we can

think of now is that the vehicle was taken with the current."

RCMP say it was a small, silver car that drove up and over a raised ferry ramp into the icy water Monday evening. So far, no one has reported a missing person or persons to police.

RCMP suspended the search around 8 p.m. Wednesday and are expected to resume looking for the vehicle at daylight.

CAPE BRETON POST



CBRM. Council approves crisis-management budget

Cape Breton regional council has approved what is being billed as a crisis-management budget that holds the line on taxes but won't address crumbling roads across the region.

"Council has been responsible, they've been respectful.... If we don't deal with this matter now, we are on a course that will cause a lot of harm to our community," Mayor Cecil Clarke said after the operating budget and capital program were unanimously approved.

The approved operating budget totalled \$140.1 million. Almost \$19.3 million in capital projects were approved, requiring a \$55,000 withdrawal from reserves.

There won't be any road construction done in 2013-2014 in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, with

only asphalt patch jobs approved for this year.

Last week, Clarke presented a \$300-million capital plan to address infrastructure needs, for which he hopes to receive support from the federal and provincial governments.

"The real call now is to the provincial government to respond to our capital plan," he said. "If we fail to have a response to something that has been presented in a very constructive manner, then indeed this is a crisis-management exercise that will only continue to get worse."

Clarke stressed that decisions made by the province resulted in the downloading of about \$7 million in costs to the CBRM in 2013-2014.

CAPE BRETON POST



Caring for a child in crisis

New labour standards to protect jobs

The province is making changes to the Labour Standards Code to protect jobs for parents and guardians who have to care for a child in crisis.

Labour Minister Frank Corbett announced the changes Wednesday.

The new regulations create an unpaid leave of

up to 37 weeks for care of a critically ill or injured child, up to 52 weeks' unpaid leave for parents whose child is missing due to a probable Criminal Code offence, and up to 104 weeks unpaid leave for parents whose child has died because of a violent crime.

"No family should have to worry about their job when they are caring for a sick child or in crisis because their child is missing or injured as a victim of crime," said Corbett, in a release. METRO

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Case. Mother charged in daughter's death due back in court in May

The case of a mother charged with impaired driving causing the death of her nine-year-old daughter will return to court on May 15 for election and plea.

Candice Roxanne Moore, 30, of Pleasantville, was charged in January with one count each of impaired driving causing death and refusing to comply with a demand for a breath sample.

On Wednesday, RCMP confirmed they had laid additional charges of criminal negligence causing death, dangerous driving causing death and refusing to comply with a demand for a breath sample when driving and a death had occurred.

Moore's lawyer, Cathy Benton, said her client was not in court for a brief hearing Wednesday in Bridge-water provincial court. Benton declined further comment on the case after the hearing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

How the cops see it

- **No comment.** Reached at her home, Candice Roxanne Moore declined comment.
- **Death.** Police have said Moore's daughter was killed after being dropped off at a home in Pleasantville at around noon on Jan. 19.
- **Struck by van.** They say Olive Moore was standing in the road when she was struck by a van as it left the driveway.
- **More than one person in van.** Police confirmed at the time that other people, including other children, were in the van. Olive was taken to hospital where she was pronounced dead.



Staring into the face of the giant daffodil

Travis Honeyford eyeballs one of seven giant daffodils installed in Halifax to celebrate the Canadian Cancer Society's 75th anniversary. The daffodils are a "re-imagining" of otherwise banal air vents throughout the city, completed in time for Daffodil Month. KAYLA WOODSIDE/FOR METRO

Manslaughter

Man sentenced in fatal stabbing case

A Halifax man who stabbed his roommate to death in March 2011 has been sentenced to just under 10 years in prison.

Qian Zhang, 49, pleaded guilty to manslaughter for the killing of 59-year-old David Anthony Currie.

They got into an argument in the South Street rooming house they shared. The argument ended with Zhang pulling a knife on Currie.

Zhang was initially charged with second-degree murder, but pleaded guilty to the lesser charge before his trial started last January.

In Nova Scotia Supreme Court Wednesday, Chief Justice Joseph Kennedy accepted a joint recommendation from the Crown and defence for nine years and 10 months in prison, a 10-year weapons ban and a DNA order.

Zhang was a brewmaster at Garrison Brewing Co. Currie was a retired humanitarian.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

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Iconic rodent. Some complain Wiarton Willie was wrong this year

The central Ontario town best known as the home of Wiarton Willie is coming to the defence of its furry forecaster.

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula, which includes the community of Wiarton, has issued a statement saying Willie is "still a valued prognosticator" despite grumblings about his accuracy.

The famous rodent did not see his shadow on Groundhog Day, indicating it would be an early spring, but some in his hometown beg to differ.

Early spring?

Willie's American counterpart Punxsutawney Phil came under fire this week when a lawyer threatened to take him to court over his inaccurate forecast.

Mayor John Close says the weather has been normal, but expectations are high following last year's balmy March. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Mayor John Close of Wiarton listens to Willie in February. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Supreme Court sets rules on text-message interception

Privacy rights.

Special wiretap orders needed before police can intercept texts, not ordinary search warrants

Police need special wiretap orders — not just ordinary search warrants — to intercept cellphone text messages as part of criminal investigations, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled Wednesday.

In a 5-2 split decision, the court sided with wireless car-

Ruling

"We see it as a robust vindication of privacy rights in the digital age."

Abby Desman of The Canadian Civil Liberties Association



The Supreme Court says texting should receive the same protection as private communications. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

rier Telus by agreeing that text messaging is essentially another form of conversation and should receive the same protection to which private communications are entitled under the Criminal Code.

"Text messaging is, in essence, an electronic conver-

sation," Justice Rosalie Abella wrote for the majority of the court.

"Technical differences inherent in new technology should not determine the scope of protection afforded to private communications.

"The only practical differ-

ence between text messaging and traditional voice communications is the transmission process. This distinction should not take text messages outside the protection to which private communications are entitled," Justice Abella wrote. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Think twice about delayed childbearing

Like sands through the hourglass, these are the eggs of our lives — but chances are you didn't know that.

A recent UBC study reveals that more than half of women and 66 per cent of men don't realize a woman's eggs are as old as she is, and men's particular lack of knowledge about fertility may be contributing to the trend of delayed childbearing.

UBC counselling psychology professor Dr. Judith

Daniluk said her findings are troubling considering the birth rate for women over 40 has more than tripled in the last 10 years, and the average age a Canadian woman has her first child is now 30.

"We're talking about more people having babies at that age, but also more people having to rely on third-party reproduction — donor egg or donor sperm — and in vitro fertilization," she said.

"Women and men look at

these movie stars who are in their 40s and even their 50s and they say, 'Look at them — they're in good health and they're having kids.' But they don't realize that those movie stars are using donor eggs — the eggs of a young woman."

Fewer than half the people surveyed knew that a man's age is also an important factor in a couple's chances of becoming pregnant. Sperm count decreases with age.

KATE WEBB/METRO IN VANCOUVER

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CITY: 7.1L/100 KM[▼]

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DESTINATION INCLUDED.

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AND
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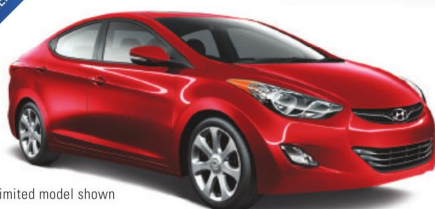
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Parks and Protected Areas Plan, Nova Scotia Environment
5151 Terminal Road, 5th Floor, Halifax, NS B3J 2R7



Riders raise their bikes in 2009 in memoriam of Solange Raulston, who passed away that year in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN/METRO FILE

Cyclists create wills so cops don't wait for death to investigate

New York. Bike riders say traffic collisions don't receive prompt investigations by NYPD

ALISON BOWEN

Metro World News in New York

Some cyclists in New York are sure police would drag their feet before investigating traffic collisions that left them mortally wounded — so sure that they are creating wills to fix that.

The environmental advocacy group Time's Up! is collecting what they call living wills, online videos in which New Yorkers ask the NYPD to launch a full investigation if

they are fatally struck.

About 25 bikers have submitted wills so far, said Keegan Stephan, a Brooklyn-based cyclist and Time's Up! volunteer.

"The videos are a little chilling," said Stephan, 29. His will asks for an investigative report to be released to the public.

"To me, this is no different than being an organ donor," he said. "If something ... happens to me, I'd at least like it to help save the life of someone else."

Previously, the NYPD only investigated crashes in which the victim died or was likely to die. Many argued this meant no evidence was collected, even if someone was severely injured or did ultimately die.

Earlier this month, the NYPD announced they would also investigate serious injuries.

Case study

Clara Heyworth, 28, was hit by a car in July 2011 as she stepped across a street.

- Her husband, Jacob Stevens, sued the NYPD, which he said did not do enough to investigate the case.
- Heyworth did not die at the scene, but later succumbed to her injuries. A delay in the investigation meant a lot of evidence was missed, Stevens said.
- The driver was charged but not sentenced to jail time.

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Liberal race. Harper, Mulcair pandering to 'fringes': Trudeau

With the finish line in sight, Justin Trudeau took his Liberal leadership bid to the financial heartland on Wednesday, accusing both Prime Minister Stephen Harper and NDP Leader Tom Mulcair of pandering to political extremism.

"We have two parties that are ideologically based around the fringes," Trudeau said. "Where the Liberal party needs to be focused on is the actual large mass of Canadians ... who are not



Justin Trudeau.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

driven by a specific polarizing issue."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Robocalls

Report calls for harsher punishments

Elections Canada is seeking greater powers to punish anyone caught impersonating one of its officials in the wake of the robocalls affair.

The agency released a report on Wednesday into false or misleading calls made during the last federal election.

The report urges the government to create a new offence that includes hefty fines and jail time for anyone caught pretending to be an Elections Canada official.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Muzzling complaints spark debate among Tory MPs



Conservative MP Mark Warawa gets set to appear before the Commons house affairs committee on Wednesday in Ottawa. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Political predicament. Concerns PM's desire to keep abortion issue closed is trumping freedom of debate

Conservative MPs are grappling with the issue of party control and freedom of speech in Parliament after a handful of their colleagues complained they're being muzzled.

The subject was discussed at the weekly caucus meeting, but there appeared to be no resolution.

Vancouver-area MP Mark Warawa has complained to

Quoted

"A member should be able to make a statement on any issue."

Kyle Seeback, Conservative MP

the Speaker of the House of Commons that his right to make statements on a subject of his choice before question period has been stifled.

Some MPs sided with Warawa, while others suggested he was offside.

"A member should be able to make a statement on any issue they think is important to themselves or their constituencies," said Tory MP Kyle Seeback. "Mr. Warawa's (member's statement) should not have been taken away."

Alberta Tory MP Leon Benoit, who had originally backed Warawa's complaint before the speaker, suggested that some measure of peace had been achieved at the weekly meeting.

"We had a really good caucus meeting, and the prime minister's as usual shown good leadership and I appreciate that," Benoit said. "He's a great leader. It was a good discussion."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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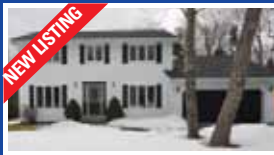
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Internet spam fighter zapped by massive online attack

An Internet watchdog group responsible for keeping ads for counterfeit Viagra and bogus weight-loss pills out of inboxes around the world has been hit by a huge cyber-attack, a crushing electronic onslaught that one expert said has already had ripple effects across the web.

Spam-fighting organization Spamhaus said Wednesday that it had been buffeted by a massive denial-of-service attack since mid-March, apparently from groups angry at being blacklisted by the Geneva-based group.

"It is a small miracle that we're still online," said Spam-

haus researcher Vincent Hanna.

Denial-of-service attacks work by overwhelming target servers with traffic.

The attack could be bad news for email users, many of whose incoming messages are checked against Spamhaus's widely used and con-

stantly updated blacklists.

Hanna said that his site had so far managed to stay on top of the spammers, but warned that being knocked offline could give them an opening. The sheer size of the attack has already affected Internet users elsewhere.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Marketing research shows web surfers actually read very little on a page as their eyes dart around their search for something specific. There are lessons in this info for web designers. SCOTT BARBOUR/GETTY IMAGES

Research tracks quick hits of users

Research. Users focus on the first few search results down the page and only about a third of the way horizontally

Front-end your web prose

"At the beginning of a headline, or a heading, or paragraph, people are seeing at most 12 to 15 characters," said Ian Everdell of Mediative.

- That means that the content of the writing has to be front-ended to catch attention, he said.

Ian Everdell knows exactly where people's eyes generally go when browsing a web page, and how women act a little differently than men when it comes to reading online.

If you can even call it reading.

Everdell has it on good authority that Internet users typically aren't really reading at all on most web pages. Their eyes impatiently dart across the screen in search of something specific, or something interesting to pique their attention, but there's not much actual reading going on.

He knows because of the eye-tracking technology at the Toronto office of the marketing company Mediative, where web users sit down to do a little surfing and have their flits of vision recorded and studied.

Web designers can then see what viewers are looking at and what they're not.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BlackBerry

U.S. sales test of comeback hopes

Investors will get a first glimpse Thursday of sales data for BlackBerry's new Z10 touchscreen smartphone.

The Waterloo-based company is to report financial results for fiscal 2013 and for the fourth quarter ended March 2 before markets open, with options trades betting that the release will drive the company's stock higher.

BlackBerry's report will

capture nearly a month of sales from the Z10, a sleek, multi-tasking handset running on a rebuilt BB10 operating platform that launched first in the U.K. on Jan. 31.

It will include no sales from the U.S., where the platform debuted last Friday.

While most analysts see the numbers from the U.S., BlackBerry's largest single market, as the test of its comeback hopes, some say early data could give the volatile stock a short-term boost.

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Insane wife killer. Court tosses province's claim to life-insurance payout

Ontario's Superior Court of Justice has ruled it would be "manifestly harsh" and "clearly not in the interests of justice" to order cash from a murdered woman's life insurance policy to go to the province rather than to the mentally ill husband who killed her.

The case involved Ved Dhingra, who killed his wife Kamlesh in 2006 but was found not criminally responsible due to a mental disorder.

While the court agreed with the province's argument that the life insurance payout claimed by Dhingra was proceeds of unlawful activity, it

Civil Remedies Act

The Civil Remedies Act, enacted in 2002, aims to prevent criminals from profiting from wrongdoing.

- It does not exempt a person found not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder.

found it would not be just for Dhingra to forfeit the funds and consequently dismissed the Attorney General's application.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Unscheduled landing

Boozy passenger disrupts flight

An Air Transat flight from Vancouver to the United Kingdom had to make an unscheduled landing in Nunavut because of a drunk-

en and unruly passenger.

RCMP said the plane was diverted early Wednesday to the territorial capital of Iqaluit because the 39-year-old man was belligerent and acting aggressively.

He had to be restrained by flight attendants and other passengers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cop killer found not criminally responsible

Mental illness. Three psychiatrists testified man was psychotic at the time he killed Toronto officer while on snowplow rampage

A man who killed a Toronto police officer with a snowplow showed no emotion Wednesday when he was found not criminally responsible.

Jurors reached the verdict in the trial of Richard Kachkar, 46, in the third day of deliberations.

The verdict means the jury believed Kachkar couldn't appreciate what he was doing when he hit and killed Sgt. Ryan Russell, 35, on Jan. 12, 2011, because he was mentally ill.

People who are found not criminally responsible are sent to mental health facilities

for an indeterminate period of time and can be released only when a review board finds they aren't a significant threat to public safety.

But the judge in the case still allowed Russell's family to deliver victim impact statements.

Speaking directly to Kachkar, Russell's father Glenn said Kachkar had smashed his family into pieces.

"You have no idea how much grief and pain you have caused," he said. "When you ran my son down with that plow and left him bleeding to death in the snow, a large part of myself died."

The judge had told the jury there was "no doubt" Kachkar was driving the stolen snowplow, but what the jury had to consider was his mental state.

The man from St. Catharines, Ont., drove the plow around the city, hitting vehicles and crossing into oncoming traffic.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A man who killed Toronto police Sgt. Ryan Russell, pictured, with a snowplow has been found not criminally responsible. TORONTO POLICE SERVICE



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A Massachusetts university is threatening discipline against students who distribute condoms out of their dorm rooms.

Boston College says it's a violation of the facility's Roman Catholic values.

A lawyer says Boston may be violating student rights. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

1.4M viewers. Anti-rape
video springs a surprise

Samantha Stendal's anti-rape video is short and simple. And it has captured 1.4 million viewers.

In the 26-second video, a woman is passed out on a couch and a guy leers at the camera, "Guess what I'm gonna do to her?"

The result is surprising: The guy fetches a pillow, a

blanket and a glass of water and then says, "Real men treat women with respect."

Stendal, 19, a University of Oregon film major, made the video because of the Steubenville, Ohio, rape trial.

Two football players were convicted of raping a girl who was passed out at a party.

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Hoping for a game-changer: Same-sex-marriage supporters rally Wednesday outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., while, inside, justices and lawyers debated whether to strike down a law that prevents legally married gay couples from receiving certain federal benefits. **MARK WILSON/GETTY IMAGES**

Defence of Marriage
Act's days numbered?

Hints dropped at hearing. Justices may toss out law that prevents gay couples from getting vital benefits

The U.S. Supreme Court appeared late Wednesday to be on the verge of dropping a gay-marriage bombshell.

It indicated it could strike down the law that prevents legally married gay couples from receiving federal benefits that go to married people.

After two days of intense debate, the court wrapped up its arguments over gay mar-

riage in America.

And Justice Anthony Kennedy — often the decisive vote in a divided court — joined the four more liberal justices in raising questions about the provision of the federal Defence of Marriage Act that is being challenged at the Supreme Court.

Kennedy said the law appears to intrude on the power of states that have chosen to recognize same-sex marriages. Other justices said the law creates what Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg called two classes of marriage.

The federal law affects a range of benefits available to married couples, including tax breaks, survivor benefits and health insurance for

Obama's stance

- In 2011, President Barack Obama's administration abandoned its defence of the law but continues to enforce it.

the spouses of federal employees.

Same-sex marriage is legal in nine states and the District of Columbia, while 12 others recognize "civil unions" or "domestic partnerships" that grant the same benefits without full rights of marriage.

All the other U.S. states ban gay marriage in their constitutions.

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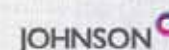


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Assad appeals for end to Syrian civil war at summit

In a letter. Syrian president asked leaders of five nations to 'work for an immediate cessation of violence'

Syria's increasingly isolated president sent a letter calling for help from leaders of five nations at an economic meeting Wednesday in South Africa to help end his country's civil war.

Bashar Assad's appeal to Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa came a day after the Arab League endorsed Syria's Western-backed opposition coalition, allowing it to take the country's seat at a summit in Doha, Qatar. The move drew strong condemnation from Damascus, which warned it will take "appropriate measures" to defend its sovereignty.

Attempts to end Syria's two-year-old conflict through peaceful means have failed



Syrian rebel fighter Tawfiq Hassan, 23, poses for a picture in this August 2012 file photo at a rebel headquarters in Marea on the outskirts of Aleppo, Syria. The country's President Bashar Assad sent a letter calling for help from leaders of five nations at an economic meeting Wednesday in South Africa to help end his country's civil war.

MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

to make progress. The opposition, including the main Syrian National Coalition, says it will accept nothing less than Assad's departure from power while Assad's government has

vowed to continue the battle until the rebel forces — which it refers to as terrorists — are crushed.

"This requires a clear international will to dry up the

sources of terrorism and stop its funding and arming," Assad said in the letter, which was carried by Syrian state media on Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fleeing Syria. Kenney working on plans if asked for help with refugee crisis

Government officials are bracing for the possibility Canada is asked to take in people fleeing the ongoing conflict in Syria, Immigration Minister Jason Kenney said Wednesday.

But a large-scale resettlement program won't resolve the growing refugee crisis, Kenney admitted.

"We're talking about millions of either convention refugees or non-registered de facto refugees or internally displaced persons in Syria," Kenney said after announcing the expansion of a resettlement program for Bhutanese refugees.

"And anyone who thinks we can just bring people in by the tens of thousands doesn't understand the complexity of the situation."

Kenney has come under repeated criticism from Syrian-Canadian groups and refugee advocates for failing to provide a concrete strategy for the growing refugee problem caused by the two-year-

Screening process

- Immigration Minister Jason Kenney cautioned that if a resettlement program were created, there would be strict controls.
- "There is a terrible bloody war going on and there's frankly blood on a lot of people's hands, both on the part of the regime and many of the opposition militias," he said. "We would have to be very careful about security screening and admissibility for anyone seeking to come in to a program like that."

old civil war.

The United Nations estimates more than a million people have left the country since 2011 — a number they say could eventually triple if no solution is found.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Yoga pants. There's no need to bend over for returns, Lululemon says

Lululemon said Wednesday no demonstrations of yoga or any other positions are needed to return the pricey black yoga pants that the company pulled from shelves last week after finding that they were too sheer.

"We do not require guests to demonstrate the sheer-ness of their bottoms," Sari Martin, a Lululemon spokeswoman, said in an emailed response to a query.

The Vancouver-based yoga-gear maker's statement comes a day after a New York Post report recounted one woman's tale of being asked by sales staff to bend over to prove that the yoga pants she was trying to return were sheer. "The sales associate then perused my butt in the dim lighting of the change room and deemed them 'not sheer,'" the woman, Christina Phillips of Toronto, said.

Martin would not comment on the specific instance recounted by the Post, but said Wednesday that this is



Clothing by Lululemon Athletica on display in Pasadena, Calif.
KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES

not standard policy for Lululemon staffers. To the contrary, she said that people who bought the black Luon yoga pants since March 1, either online or in store, can return them for a full refund, "no questions asked."

The hubbub comes a week after Lululemon said it was recalling its black Luon yoga pants because their material was too sheer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sleeping on the job

Hotel looking for professional guest for 35 days

Fed up with the neighbours? Pipes burst in the kitchen? Or, you just want to get away from it all for a while?

Hotel Finn in the heart of Helsinki might just be the ticket — they're seeking a "professional sleeper" for 35 days to test their rooms and write all about it. Hotel manager Tio Tikka says he thought up the stunt to help promote the hotel after lengthy renovations.

Tikka said they were looking for a "dynamic person to write a quality blog" about their daily experiences at the basic hotel, which has no bar or restaurant.

Requirements: Fluent Finnish and English, Russian a plus. The job opens May 17 with applications closing end of April.

So far more than 600 would-be hotel sleepers have applied.

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WEEKEND, March 28-31, 2013

February inflation jumps dramatically

Inflation shock. Hike in gasoline prices fuelled month-to-month rise

Consumer prices in Canada jumped by a surprisingly strong 1.2 per cent in February as a big hike in gasoline helped fuel the biggest month-to-month pop in inflation since January 1991 when Ottawa debuted the GST.

The one-month increase lifted the Canadian annual inflation rate by 0.7 point, also to 1.2 per cent, reversing a trend that had reduced annual inflation to 0.5 per cent in January, the lowest in more than three years.

Economists had expected inflation to start edging up, particularly as gasoline prices were known to have risen, but their best estimate was for a year-to-year increase of 0.8 per cent and a month-to-month increase of 0.7 per cent.

Despite the one-month inflation shock, analysts said Canadians had little to worry about and that the Bank of Canada will likely discount the report as an anomaly.

Derek Holt, vice-president of economics with Scotia Capital, noted the steep increase in gasoline prices from January to February — 8.4 per cent — is not being repeated in March.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A steep increase in gasoline prices from January to February helped drive up consumer prices in Canada by a surprisingly strong 1.2 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Market Minute



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NADbank. 137,000 people in Halifax read Metro every day

The numbers are in — according to the latest NADbank newspaper research, 137,000 Haligonians reach for a Metro newspaper every morning to find out what happened in their city and around the globe while they slept, an increase of 17 per cent over last year.

"We are thrilled with the recent readership results in Halifax," says Greg Lutes, Vice President and Group Publisher, Eastern Canada. "A 17 per cent increase in our daily audience to 137,000 readers is verification that Metro Halifax is providing relevant, quality, local content in a format that Nova Scotians want."

Nationally, the research reports that 1.6 million Canadians from Halifax to Vancouver read a Metro every day, an increase of nine per cent over last year. Every week, 3.9 mil-

lion Canadians turn to their Metro for the latest news, an increase of 16 per cent.

And that's only part of the story. Metro Canada's total brand footprint — print, digital paper, website and news app — has reached a record 1.8 million daily readers and 4.1 million weekly readers.

"We've heard lots of chatter about the death of newspapers," says Bill McDonald, President of Metro English Canada. "But the truth is, more Canadians than ever before are turning to newspapers across all their platforms, and the growth has been driven by a combination of free dailies and digital properties. Our readers — active metropolitans — expect news, information and entertainment from the paper, the app and online, and these numbers tell us we're delivering on that expectation."

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Less Fuel. More Power. Great Value is a comparison between the 2013 and the 2012 Chrysler Canada product lineups. 40 MPG or greater claim (7.0 L/100 km) based on 2013 EnerGuide highway fuel consumption estimates. Government of Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on powertrain, driving habits and other factors. See retailer for additional EnerGuide details. *2013 Ram 1500 3.6 L V6 42 and 8-speed transmission - 11.4 L/100 km (86 MPG) City and 7.8 L/100 km (34 MPG) Hwy. 2013 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package & SE Plus 2.4 L 4-speed automatic - Hwy: 7.5 L/100 km and City: 10.8 L/100 km. 2013 Dodge Journey SXT 3.6 L 6-speed automatic - Hwy: 7.8 L/100 km and City: 12.8 L/100 km. 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee models equipped with 3.6 L engine - Hwy: 8.3 L/100 km (34 MPG) City and 12.4 L/100 km (23 MPG). Wise customers read the fine print: *1. *2. *3. *4. *5. *6. *7. *8. *9. *10. *11. *12. *13. *14. *15. *16. *17. *18. *19. *20. *21. *22. *23. *24. *25. *26. *27. *28. *29. *30. *31. *32. *33. *34. *35. *36. *37. *38. *39. *40. *41. *42. *43. *44. *45. *46. *47. *48. *49. *50. *51. *52. *53. *54. *55. *56. *57. *58. *59. *60. *61. *62. *63. *64. *65. *66. *67. *68. *69. *70. *71. *72. *73. *74. *75. *76. *77. *78. *79. *80. *81. *82. *83. *84. *85. *86. *87. *88. *89. *90. *91. *92. *93. *94. *95. *96. *97. *98. *99. *100. *101. *102. *103. *104. *105. *106. *107. *108. *109. *110. *111. *112. *113. *114. *115. *116. *117. *118. *119. *120. *121. *122. *123. *124. *125. *126. *127. *128. *129. *130. *131. *132. *133. *134. *135. *136. *137. *138. *139. *140. *141. *142. *143. *144. *145. *146. *147. *148. *149. *150. *151. *152. *153. *154. *155. *156. *157. *158. *159. *160. *161. *162. *163. *164. *165. *166. *167. *168. *169. *170. *171. *172. *173. *174. *175. *176. *177. *178. 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*1008. *1009. *1010. *1011. *1012. *1013. *1014. *1015. *1016. *1017. *1018. *1019. *1020. *1021. *1022. *1023. *1024. *1025. *1026. *1027. *1028. *1029. *1030. *1031. *1032. *1033. *1034. *1035. *1036. *1037. *1038. *1039. *1040. *1041. *1042. *1043. *1044. *1045. *1046. *1047. *1048. *1049. *1050. *1051. *1052. *1053. *1054. *1055. *1056. *1057. *1058. *1059. *1060. *1061. *1062. *1063. *1064. *1065. *1066. *1067. *1068. *1069. *1070. *1071. *1072. *1073. *1074. *1075. *1076. *1077. *1078. *1079. *1080. *1081. *1082. *1083. *1084. *1085. *1086. *1087. *1088. *1089. *1090. *1091. *1092. *1093. *1094. *1095. *1096. *1097. *1098. *1099. *1100. *1101. *1102. *1103. *1104. *1105. *1106. *1107. *1108. *1109. *1110. *1111. *1112. *1113. *1114. *1115. *1116. *1117. *1118. *1119. *1120. *1121. *1122. *1123. *1124. *1125. *1126. *1127. *1128. *1129. *1130. *1131. *1132. *1133. *1134. *1135. *1136. *1137. *1138. *1139. *1140. *1141. *1142. *1143. *1144. *1145. *1146. *1147. *1148. *1149. *1150. 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*2009. *2010. *2011. *2012. *2013. *2014. *2015. *2016. *2017. *2018. *2019. *2020. *2021. *2022. *2023. *2024. *2025. *2026. *2027. *2028. *2029. *2030. *2031. *2032. *2033. *2034. *2035. *2036. *2037. *2038. *2039. *2040. *2041. *2042. *2043. *2044. *2045. *2046. *2047. *2048. *2049. *2050. *2051. *2052. *2053. *2054. *2055. *2056. *2057. *2058. *2059. *2060. *2061. *2062. *2063. *2064. *2065. *2066. *2067. *2068. *2069. *2070. *2071. *2072. *2073. *2074. *2075. *2076. *2077. *2078. *2079. *2080. *2081. *2082. *2083. *2084. *2085. *2086. *2087. *2088. *2089. *2090. *2091. *2092. *2093. *2094. *2095. *2096. *2097. *2098. *2099. *2100. *2101. *2102. *2103. *2104. *2105. *2106. *2107. *2108. *2109. *2110. *2111. *2112. *2113. *2114. *2115. *2116. *2117. *2118. *2119. *2120. *2121. *2122. *2123. *2124. *2125. *2126. *2127. *2128. *2129. *2130. *2131. *2132. *2133. *2134. *2135. *2136. *2137. *2138. *2139. *2140. *2141. *2142. *2143. *2144. *2145. *2146. *2147. *2148. *2149. *2150. *2151. 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Channing Tatum and Dwayne Johnson flex their muscles in *G.I. Joe: Retaliation*. HANDOUT

2 SCENE

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN



A real American no-no

Retaliation. Second instalment of the G.I. Joe series beats the tar out of viewers

Richard: Mark, I enjoyed watching *G.I. Joe: Retaliation*, but it wasn't the movie I thought it would be. It was written by the people who did *Zombieland*, so I expected a higher laugh to body count ratio. I didn't think it would be *Zero Dark Thirty* or anything, but every now and again it would tease me with a line like, "They call it a water board, but I never got bored," that made me wish for more belly laughs and fewer bullets. What did you think?

Mark: The spirit of Michael

Bay hangs over this movie like a shroud, suffocating it with inane plotting, cardboard characters and meth lab editing. I thought I disliked the first *G.I. Joe* but this one makes the original look like *Citizen Kane*. No wonder Charming Tater, or whatever his name is, had the smarts to limit his scenes to his contractual obligations only.

RC: This one makes the assumption that the audience has read the comics and knows the mythology surrounding the Joes (all you really need to know is that "Joes" rhymes with "heroes"), Cobra (the bad guys) and the various ninjas. That's where this movie lost me, story wise. I was glad the ninjas were there — there's a wild ninja chase in the middle of the movie — but their backstory

Synopsis

Based on Hasbro's *G.I. Joe* toys and comics, *Retaliation* sees the *G.I. Joe Squad* — Duke (Channing Tatum), Roadblock (Dwayne Johnson), Flint (D.J. Cotrona) and Lady Jaye (Adrianne Palicki) — framed for treason.

• **Richard:** ●●●●●

• **Mark:** ●●●●●

muddies things up. Remind me again, is Storm Shadow a good guy or a bad guy?

MB: Couldn't tell. Same with the ninjas. They have a great scene on a mountain, though, the best in the movie. But otherwise, the

film just crowds in as much action as possible, and hopes we'll find Jonathan Pryce as dastardly as he thinks he is. The rest of the cast seems a bit stunned by the plot, even The Rock, although Bruce Willis is a welcome arrival midway through. But it's like putting a fine béarnaise sauce on a rancid flank steak. In glorious 3D.

RC: I liked it more than you. I was content to sit back and watch things explode — the little flying bug bombs are cool — and watch The Rock flex his muscles, but I did feel the action scenes, while plentiful, were shot so that it was often difficult to tell who was beating the tar out of who.

MB: Me either, but in the end, I felt the movie was beating the tar out of me.

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**Bayers Lake
190 Chain Lake Dr.**
21 and Over (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 4:20-10:05
Admission (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:20-7:35-10:05
The Call (STC) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:15-3:40-6:40-9:15
The Croods (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:35-3:25-6:20-9
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 12:35-3:25-6:20
The Croods 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:35-3:45-6:55-9:20
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 12:55-3:45-6:55
Evil Dead (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 10:10
G.I. Joe: Retaliation (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-3:05-6:30-9:05
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:50-3:35-7:30-10:15
A Good Day to Die Hard (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 4:30-10:20
The Host (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15-3:15-7:05-10
Identity Thief (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:20-9:50
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (STC) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-6:55-10:10

Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:35-9:30
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:35-4:30-7:55
Safe Haven (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:45-7:40
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 1:45
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:45-7:40
Silver Linings Playbook (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-7:10
Spring Breakers (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2-4:25-7:50-9:25

**Imax
190 Chain Lake Dr.**
G.I. Joe: Retaliation — An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 1:20-4-7-9:40

**Oxford Theatre
6408 Quinpool Rd.**
Stoker (STC) Fri-Sun 4:30-6:45-9 Mon-Thu 6:45-9

**Park Lane
5657 Spring Garden Rd.**
Admission (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:35-3:10-6:20-9:25
Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 3:45-6:20-9:25
Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 6:20-9:25
The Call (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:15-3:45-7:15-9:50
Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 4:05-7:15-9:50

Seating Fri-Sun 1 Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 3:50
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 3:50-6:50-9:20
Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:50-9:20
The Host (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:45-3:40-6:40-9:10
Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 3:40-6:40-9:10
Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 6:40-9:10
Jurassic Park 3D (STC) Stadium Seating Thu 10
Olympus Has Fallen (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:10-4-6:55-9:35
Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 3:35-6:55-9:35
Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 6:55-9:35
Oz the Great and Powerful (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:30-9
Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30
Spring Breakers (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:25-4:05-7:05-9:30
Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 4:10-7:05-9:30
Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 7:05-9:30

**Lower Sackville
760 Sackville Dr.**
Admission (STC) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 1:20-3:50-6:20-9:30
Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Mon 2:10-6:20-9:30
Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Tue-Thu 6:20-9:30
The Call (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:55-4:25-6:40-9:25
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium

G.I. Joe: Retaliation (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 12:50
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Mon 2:50
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (STC) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 4-7-9:20
Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat-Thu 7-9:20
The Host (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1:05-3:25-6:15-8:55
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 3-6:15-8:55
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:15-8:55
Olympus Has Fallen (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:45-3:35-6:30-9:10
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 2-6:30-9:10
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:30-9:10
Oz the Great and Powerful (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1:30-8:50
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 2-8:50
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 8:50
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (STC) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 3:15-6:10
Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Thu 6:10

**Dartmouth Crossing
145 Shubie Dr.**
Admission (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:15-3:10-6:45-9:45
Dolby Stereo, Stadium

Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:10-4-7-9:35
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 4-7-9:35
Evil Dead (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 10:10
G.I. Joe: Retaliation (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:20-4:10-6:50-9
Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 3:20-6:50-9
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1-3:50-7:20-10
Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 3:50-7:20-10
The Host (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 3:10-6:30-9:30
Identity Thief (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:10-6:25
Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:25
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Wed 9:10
Jack the Giant Slayer (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 3 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 3:35
Jurassic Park 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 10:05
Olympus Has Fallen (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:40-3:40-7:10-9:40
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 3:40-7:10-9:40
Oz the Great and Powerful (STC)

of a Marriage Counselor (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:15
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 3:45-7:30-10:15

**Truro
20 Treaty Trail Millbrook**
The Call (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 3:30-7:15-9:35
Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 7:15-9:35
The Croods (STC) Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 3:20-6:45
Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:45
The Croods 3D (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:10
G.I. Joe: Retaliation (STC) Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Mon 3:10-9:30
Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Tue-Thu 9:30
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (STC) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 7
The Host (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, Digital Fri-Mon 3-6:30-9:15
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, Digital Tue-Thu 6:30-9:15
Identity Thief (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 3:15-6:50
Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:50
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:40
Olympus Has Fallen (STC) Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 3:05-6:40-9:20
Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu

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Jack the Giant Slayer 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3-6:15
Jurassic Park 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 10
Olympus Has Fallen (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:05-4:15-7:15-9:55
Oz the Great and Powerful (STC)

Stadium Seating Wed 9:50
Stadium Seating Thu 6:45
The Croods (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:50-9:45
Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 4-9:45
Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 9:45
The Croods 3D (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 3:15-6:35
Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:35
Evil Dead (STC) No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 10:10
G.I. Joe: Retaliation (STC) Stadium

Seating Sat-Mon 2:40-6:40-9:25
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:40-9:25
The Croods (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1:40-6:50
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 2:30-6:50
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:50
The Croods 3D (STC) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 4:20-9
Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Thu 9

Seating Tue-Thu 3:15-6:45-9:45
The Call (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:15-4:10-7:40-10:10
Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 4:30-7:40-10:10
The Croods (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:20-2:50-6:20-9:50
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue-Wed 3:30-6:20-9:50
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 3:30-6:20
The Croods 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo,

Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12-9:45
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Seating Tue-Thu 3-9:45
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 3-6:40
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:40
Spring Breakers (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:50-3:20-7:40-10:20
Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 4:20-7:40-10:20
Tyler Perry's Temptation: Confessions

6:40-9:20
Oz the Great and Powerful (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 3:25-9:25
Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 9:25
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 6:35

**Bridgewater
349 Lahave St.**
Admission (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 2:40-6:15-9
Stadium Seating Mon 2:40-7:10
Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 7:10
The Call (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 3:10-7:05-9:25
Stadium Seating Mon 3:10-7:40
Stadium Seating Tue-Wed 7:40
The Croods (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 3:25-9:25
Stadium Seating Mon 2:30-7
Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 7
The Croods 3D (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 9:05
G.I. Joe: Retaliation (STC) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 3:30
G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (STC) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 6:55-9:30
No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 8
The Host (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 3-6:20-9:10
Stadium Seating Mon 3-7:30
Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 7:30
Olympus Has Fallen (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 3:20-6:35-9:15
Stadium Seating Mon 3:20-7:50
Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 7:50
Oz the Great and Powerful (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 2:50-9:20
Stadium Seating Mon 2:50
Oz the Great and Powerful 3D (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 6:30
Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 7:20
Stadium Seating Thu 7:20



Gerard Butler stars in Olympus Has Fallen. HANDOUT

No achy breaky hearts for O'Dowd

The Sapphires. Actor's attitude toward country music parallels his character's beliefs about the genre

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

"Country and western music," says Chris O'Dowd, "is a very easy thing to deride."

In *The Sapphires* O'Dowd plays an Irish musician playing piano in Australia's out-back bars in exchange for beer money. His life is spiraling downward until he discovers a group made up of four of talented Indigenous Australian sisters. Trouble is, he doesn't like the music they sing.

"When I met you," he says in the film, "you were doing all country and western things and that's fine, we all make

mistakes."

For O'Dowd that speech was art imitating life. "My dad played guitar in pubs playing country and western music," he says. "So I feel like the whole speech I do about country and western music is something that has been pent up in me since I was 14. Carrying his guitar case to listen to bad Merle Haggard tracks."

"Country and western music is huge in Ireland. I don't know why. It's all Kris Kristofferson and a bit of Willie Nelson and Clint Black. Dad was really into it. Maybe it's that country and western has some origins in bluegrass and bluegrass has origins in Irish music. There's something going on there. And Irish people love a good whine. We're great at it."

In the film he convinces the girls to trade country for soul music and shapes them into a version of The Supremes.

"I wrote this speech about how country music is about

loss, but soul music is also about loss — you've lost but you haven't given up — and that has a nice payoff in the film.

"Country music is kind of whiny," he says. "He left me, now what am I going to do with my life? Whereas soul music is like, 'I'm going to get that bugger back.' It's nice. It's a nice turning point in the film where we're not going to feel sorry for ourselves. That's an important element for the entire story. About moving on."

Thinking back on his teenage years, he speculates if his attitude might have been different if dear old dad had sung a different kind of music.

"I wonder if he had been an amazing Al Green-esque songster if I would have still said, 'This is so lame.' I wonder sometimes with people whose parents are cool. I've been working with Rashida Jones recently and I'm like, 'How can you not think your dad is cool?'"



Chris O'Dowd stars in *The Sapphires*, which opens next week. HANDOUT



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ENTERTAINMENT ONE 

It's all good in the Brad Brad World of style

New season. Former style director for Rachel Zoe is watching his business take off with a plethora of pretty faces hiring out his services

Comparing season one with season two of Brad Goreski's reality TV show is like looking at before and after makeover photos.

It's a Brad Brad World began with Goreski trying to kick-start his styling business. He kept racks of clothes in his garage, worried about money and needed to get his name out there.

The show is now in its second season on Bravo (Wednesday, 10 p.m. EDT), and the former style director for Rachel Zoe has turned things around. (Goreski was featured on Zoe's Bravo series before landing his own show.)

He counts a number of Hollywood leading ladies as clients, including Jessica Alba,

Rashida Jones, Stacy Keibler and Jenna Dewan-Tatum. He's also the head brand stylist for Kate Spade.

So what does he do for those famous faces?

"It's a very simple process," he explained in a recent interview. "I bring a very edited rack, and I know the top five things that (the client) is going to like."

When he dressed Alba for the Golden Globe Awards, "it was the first dress that we tried on," Goreski said.

"We tried on maybe three or four after that and were like, 'This is it,'" he said. "And I think that is a really good way to work."

Goreski, 35, said dressing celebrities is more than feeding their egos.

"People aren't hiring me to be a 'yes' man," he said. "They have their girlfriends for that."

He said a stylist has to be able to say why something doesn't look great on a client or why it won't be received well.

"You can't just say 'it doesn't look good on you,' you have to say this: 'It's not



Celebrity stylist Brad Goreski says dressing celebs is more than feeding their egos. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

flattering, the colour's off, it won't photograph well from the side, there's nothing really special about it."

Goreski, well-coiffed and often sporting a bow tie, said

he goes for comfort at home, just like everyone else.

"It all comes off as soon as I get home," he said.

"I love the big, like, basketball sweats ... and I only wear

vintage T-shirts to bed because I like the superthin ones.

"I have about six that all go on rotation and my boyfriend hates (them.) It's like a woman who wears the same flannel

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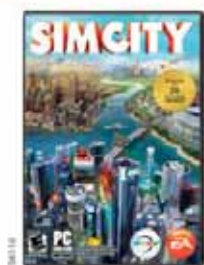
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Music videos from the fringe that are too hot for television



SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

The cool thing about the Internet is that bands get to make videos that would have a hard time making it on TV.



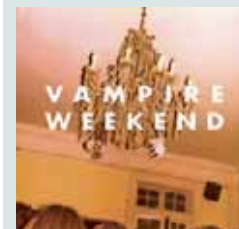
Bad MF/Biting Elbows

When I posted this video from this unknown band on my website, traffic exploded. You've never, ever seen anything like this before. (Violence and coarse language! Definitely NSFW.)



Bohemian Rhapsody/Puscifer

Weirdly cool—and more than just a little disturbing. In the absence of a new Tool album, I guess Maynard James Keenan needs to do something, although I'm not sure what Freddie Mercury would think.



Diane Young/Vampire Weekend

Wherein the band greatly annoys Saab fans by torching some perfectly good cars.



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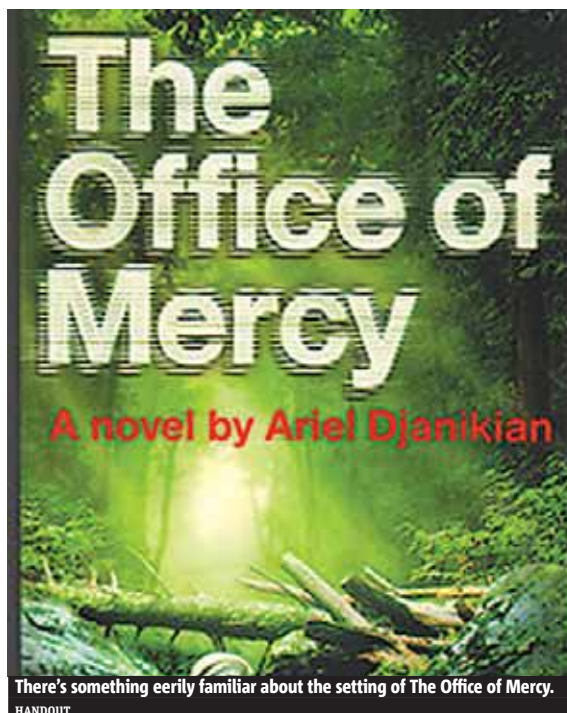
The Office of Mercy.
Young adult author
talks about our
fascination with
imagining what will be

**MONICA
WEYMOUTH**
Metro World News in New York

There's no hunger in America-5. No unemployment, no struggling schools, no divisive elections. There's no income inequality because there's no longer a need for money, an unnecessary distraction when there are no wants. Established as an underground safe haven after a disastrous storm, America-5 is, on its surface, quite different from its predecessor.

And yet there's something eerily familiar about the setting of Ariel Djanikian's novel *The Office of Mercy*.

"I think there's something traditionally, deeply American about the postapocalyptic book — we're a forward-looking people in general,"



There's something eerily familiar about the setting of *The Office of Mercy*.

HANDOUT

says Djanikian, a Philadelphia native and 2004 University of Pennsylvania graduate who now calls North Carolina home. "Things change fast now, and I think there's a desire to see where we'll land. There's a lot of historical fiction that's popular right now that seems like the reverse, but it's probably symptomatic of the same desire to find universal themes — either in a past or a future. Putting a story in a different time kind of quiets the noise and lets you look at people and emotions."

Like most utopias, America-5 is not quite the all-inclusive resort it appears to be. As an employee of the Office of Mercy, 24-year-old Natasha is tasked with euthanizing the

unfortunate nomads who roam outside the community's walls — which seems compassionate enough until she's sent on an eye-opening mission above ground by bosses who are clearly not familiar with Young Adult novels and their feisty heroines.

Despite the bleak future she's imagined, Djanikian doesn't necessarily think humanity is doomed. But she does hope readers stop and think about what, exactly, constitutes a disaster. "I think it's more the job of a novel to say how things could be rather than how things should be," she says. "It's up to readers what they want to be horrified by and what they don't want to accept."

Young adult novels

- **On the genre.** Although Djanikian didn't write her novel for a specific audience, she's happy to be included in the Young Adult genre. "So many of them have such a compelling story," she says of YA books. "There's been a lot of books recently with strong female leads, people we can get behind. There was this fear that the computer generation wouldn't be reading as much, but that's just not the case."

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Ford playing coy on Star Wars sequels

Han Solo. The scruffy nerf herder declines to discuss what role — if any — he may have in the new J.J. Abrams movies

Bloomberg Businessweek that Ford, Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher had been in negotiations to return to the franchise even before Lucasfilm was sold to Disney last fall. Was Ford surprised by that announcement? He

makes the universal zipping-lips sign. Asked what it will take to get him to commit to play Han Solo again, Ford said, “Um, I don’t even want to discuss that. It’s great. Ain’t it great?”

It’s been over two decades

since Abrams wrote the Regarding Henry screenplay. Have the two chatted recently?

“About what?” Ford asked, smirking and taking a slow sip from a cup.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Harrison Ford isn’t ready — “yet” — to talk about his reported part in Disney’s planned Star Wars sequel, but he praises its director, J.J. Abrams.

“I think he’s fantastic,” Ford said in a recent interview. “I did his first movie, Regarding Henry, with Mike Nichols. A wonderful talent. Extraordinary guy.”

The 70-year-old actor — who came to fame playing Han Solo in the Star Wars trilogy — is shrugging off questions about that character while promoting his role as Brooklyn Dodgers president Branch Rickey in the upcoming Jackie Robinson film 42.

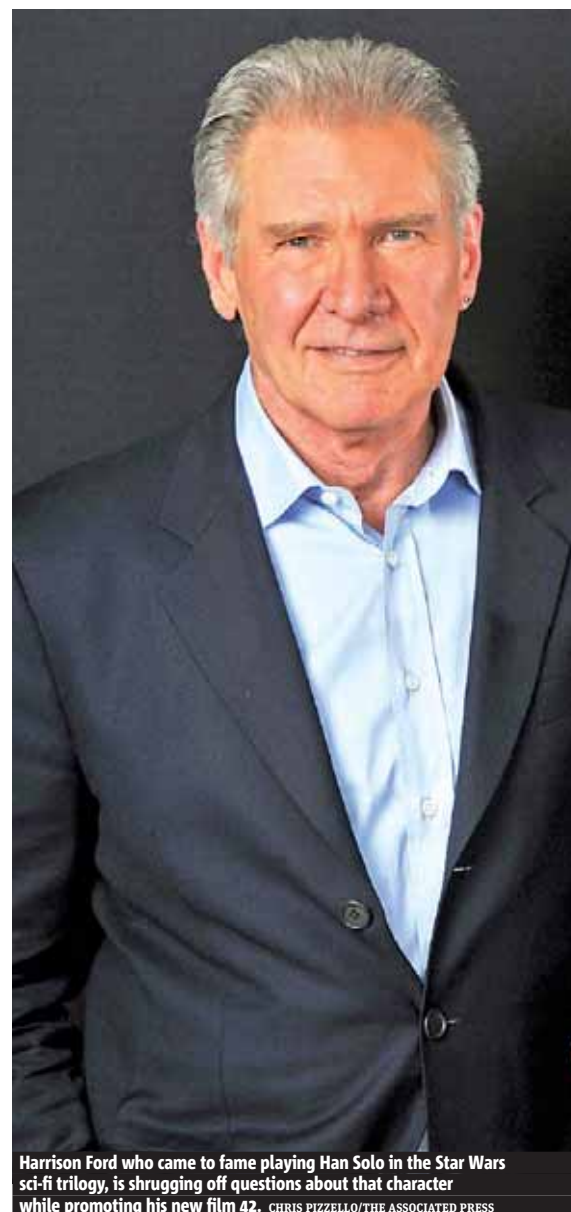
Asked how he feels generally that the Star Wars sequel and Disney spinoffs are in the works, Ford responded: “I don’t feel anything at the moment yet.”

In an article published earlier this month, Star Wars creator George Lucas told

Quoted

“I think he’s fantastic. I did his first movie, Regarding Henry, with Mike Nichols. A wonderful talent. Extraordinary guy.”

Harrison Ford
Talking about working with J.J. Abrams on previous films.



Harrison Ford who came to fame playing Han Solo in the Star Wars sci-fi trilogy, is shrugging off questions about that character while promoting his new film 42. CHRIS PIZZELLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hannibal keeps a sense of style to their murders



Director David Slade arrives at the premiere of 30 Days of Night. He is now helming the Hannibal series. CHRIS CARLSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRIS
ALEXANDER
Metro World News

The new series Hannibal is the brainchild of Heroes writer Bryan Fuller, who brings his manic energy and dedicated vision to the show and has, for his director, a man who is no stranger to horror: David Slade, helmer of the stylized vampire classic 30 Days of Night. He was brought on to direct the pilot but stayed on to ensure the style of Hannibal remained consistent in tone ... and in darkness.

“The usual process with a

director on a pilot is that the producers hire him, he does the job, they kick him out, they get a royalty,” Slade told us.

“But here I stayed on. They brought me in, embraced my ideas and we created a look and a sound and they kept me here to maintain it. It’s a family and I’m totally dedicated to this show.”

The Hannibal crew may be a family, but it is decidedly not a family show. Rather, it pushes the boundaries on just how much blood and horror can be allowed on American network television.

Bullets tear flesh, blades open wounds, violently dispatched bodies in all manner of decay litter morgues and in the second episode, men and women are buried alive, their flesh then used to grow edible fungus.

It’s a nasty piece of work indeed. Laurence Fishburne, who stars in Hannibal, is no stranger to on-screen television gore, having served time in the hit series CSI, but he insists the murders here are even more devious.

“The funny thing about CSI was that they were always trying to find interesting, weird,

unexpected ways in which people had died,” he says, “and in this show, they have a little more license. Now they want creative ways in which people are murdered. There’s a creative flair here. In CSI it was all accidents and murderers but this is serial killers, every week, people with dramatic bravado.”

With the success of such programs as AMC’s The Walking Dead, HBO’s True Blood and Showtime’s Dexter kicking down the gates for what sort of visceral violence can be shown in prime time television.

Timberlake. Album promotion had 20/20 vision on how to succeed



Justin Timberlake is swimming in success. HANDOUT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Justin Timberlake's comeback album has sold nearly one million units its first week out.

Nielsen SoundScan announced Tuesday that the singer's third album, *The 20/20 Experience*, has moved 968,000 units. It's the 19th album in Nielsen's 22-year history that has sold more than 900,000 albums in its debut week.

20/20 is Timberlake's third album and the follow-up to his multiplatinum, Grammy-winning 2006 album, *FutureSex/LoveSounds*. The new CD features the pop hit *Suit & Tie*.

"The numbers are pleasantly surprising," said Tom Corson, the president and chief operating officer of RCA Records, which released Timberlake's album.

The label had projected that *20/20* would sell 500,000 to 600,000 units, Corson said. Timberlake, 31, was strategic about promoting his comeback effort. He performed at the Grammy Awards, hosted and hit the stage at Saturday Night Live and spent an entire week on *Late Night* with Jimmy Fallon. The singer also partnered with Target for the album's deluxe edition and

Albums

Of the 19 albums to sell more than 900,000 in their debut week, Timberlake holds three slots

- **Numbers.** His albums with 'N Sync in 2000 and 2001 sold 2.4 million and 1.9 million in their first week.

20/20 streamed on iTunes a week before it was released.

Timberlake came up with the idea of a weeklong stint himself, Fallon said.

"I think he mentioned it to me like a year ago that he's working on something and wanted to do a week on our show," Fallon said Tuesday.

20/20 is an unconventional album that features a mesh of R&B, soul, pop and futuristic sounds. The 10 tracks average seven minutes each.

Corson believes Timberlake's key to promoting the album was "less is more."

"While it felt like he was everywhere, he didn't do a lot of things because he didn't have to. But he did big things," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dido promises new album won't be one who got away

Life gets in the way. Singer's fourth album took more than a few years to get made but now that it's here she's hoping it's a success

Dido had been planning a

relatively quick return to the spotlight after 2008's *Safe Trip Home*. She holed up in Los Angeles and London studios to record a set of electronic-tinged songs.

"I was busy telling everyone there was an album on the way," Dido said.

"And then I found out there was a baby on the way instead."

She and husband Rohan Gavin welcomed their first child, a son named Stanley, in July 2011.

Dido packed up the recordings to focus on her new family.

But then late last year, the 41-year-old English singer reached out to her brother, producer Rollo Armstrong, to finally put

the finishing touches on her fourth album, *Girl Who Got Away*, released Tuesday.

The album has some electronica and dubstep influence. What were you feeling and listening to as you edged in that direction?

All the music you listen to in your life is all in like this big melting pot in your head and you can't help it. All the things you love just come out — whether it's dance music, hip-hop, folk. And I just love so many different types of music. ... It's similar to *No Angel* in that way in it's sort of unashamedly doing what I want.

But the thing that's holding it together is the songs and the same voice.

The album title seems to evoke a desire to escape and be away from the spotlight. Is that right?

It's a slightly almost joking comment on me, I guess. Everyone else spotted that aspect of the title. ... They're like, "Well, it's sort of perfect because you do keep disappearing." And it's like, "Really? Sorry!" I've never felt a need to sort of keep being in the public eye. I don't have that burning need. I do have a burning need to make music. I can't stop doing that and I don't want to stop doing that.

Music is my thing and it's the way I see the world. And I love writing songs and I will always keep doing that.

Your husband wrote and is set to release a book that focuses on a father-son relationship. Has being a mother changed you creatively?

Obviously when you first have a kid, you're so focused on them and your brain slightly disintegrates.

I don't know if anyone else has that, but it's just like, "Wow, where did my brain go?" Then it sort of comes back. ... Now I really see the world through his eyes and it gives this real freshness to everything. It's like if you thought you were going to run out of things to ever write about, you have a kid, then you're never going to run out because suddenly everything is sort of limitless again and fresh and new and it's like this amazing new start. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Dido's latest album was released Tuesday. HANDOUT



Hayden Panettiere. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Hayden Panettiere engaged to Klitschko?

Hayden Panettiere has secretly gotten engaged to her Ukrainian boxer beau, Wladimir Klitschko, according to Us Weekly.

"Very few people know, and she isn't wearing her ring publicly yet," a source says. "Looks like a summer

wedding."

Panettiere and Klitschko split up in 2011 after two years of dating, and they have not officially confirmed they are back together, despite several public displays of affections over the past few months.



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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Jon Hamm wants you to stop talking about his package

THE WORD
Meredith Engel
scene@metronews.ca

Jon Hamm is growing tired of the attention his private parts have been receiving.

"Most of it's tongue-in-cheek, but it is a little rude," he tells Rolling Stone

of the photos spread online of his crotch. "They're called 'privates' for a reason. I'm wearing pants. Lay off."

Of course, the Mad Men star doesn't want to come off as a complainer.

"I mean ... There are harder jobs in the world," he says. "But when people feel the freedom to create Tumblr accounts... I feel like that wasn't part of the deal. But whatever. I guess it's better than being called out for the opposite."

Exactly. Better than the alternative, Hamm. We could be talking about your Hammappillar.



Justin Bieber

Did Bieber lay a beat down?

Justin Bieber is facing battery accusations made by a neighbour who claims the singer made threats during an argument near his Los Angeles-area home, according to E! News. No further details of Bieber's supposed behaviour were made available.

While no arrests were

made or injuries reported, the L.A. Sheriff's Department is investigating the accusation.

"Everyone that we will need to talk to, we will talk to," a spokesman says. Bieber was stopping home in California this week between stops on his European tour.

Twitter



@SteveMartinToGo

I hope to go down in history with this historic Tweet. Yes, the one you are reading right now. It's got it all.



@kirstiealley

my timeline is broken... ouch



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Spring into a male makeover

Fashion. The change in the seasons brings a combination of classic staples and new trends, including suede, splashes of colour and blue suits

Men will soon be packing away the parkas and shelving heavy sweaters to make way for spring styles — and they'd be wise to leave plenty of closet space.

"I find menswear right now the best it's ever been. It's just more exciting, fun, colourful," says Melissa Austria, founder of Toronto menswear boutique Got-style.

While menswear doesn't change as rapidly as womenswear, it remains rooted in the classic staples — albeit with a twist, notes Shannon Stewart, assistant general merchandise manager for Harry Rosen.

"The polo is a great example. It's been around for decades and we keep reinventing it really through colour and through silhouette," Stewart says.

Whether you're a fashion-forward fella or a style neophyte, Austria and Stewart have some tips on ways men can spring



The wealth of fashion choices for men this spring will blow your mind—and your closet. iSTOCK

forward with their seasonal wardrobe.

1. Rainbow brights. It's not just flashes of colour in neckties, pocket squares, socks and collared shirts: a rainbow full of saturated shades are brightening up all facets of menswear.

"The overriding theme for the season is the sheer amount of colour," says Stewart. "Even from a psychological point of view, it just has an impact on a person. It instantly lifts their mood

— and it can instantly lift a wardrobe."

Austria says the colours span the spectrum from reds to brighter greens to blues, oranges and yellows.

"It's a more toned-down silhouette. So, it's going to be a toned-down (coloured) chino that you're going to wear with a crisp white shirt. It's going to be a polo shirt that you're going to wear with dark jeans," she says. "It doesn't have to be that intimidating for guys."

Colourful patterns are also in the mix for spring, with smaller-scale hounds-tooth print, finer stripes and smaller grid checks in shirting, notes Austria.

While some men may have no qualms about donning pants in a bold hue or pairing a variety of shades within one look, both Austria and Stewart say more style-shy guys should start by opting for one core coloured piece.

Unsure of which shade to select? Stewart recommends blue, which she says is a "go-to colour" for many men.

"If they stay in that colour family of blues but maybe go a little bit lighter or a little bit more punchier with the blue, it's a simple way of just taking the blue up a notch from the usual navy or denim blue."

2. Tie one on. Bow ties are broadening beyond tuxedos and geek chic as a sleek alternative to neckties awash

Not just for Pee-wee

"We've seen a return to men wearing bow ties ... It's definitely a modern look, and you have to be a little more confident."

Harry Rosen merchandise manager
Shannon Stewart

in vibrant hues, graphic patterns and even available in reversible varieties.

"Even if a man isn't planning on buying a new suit for the season, through dress shirts and ties ... or bow ties, you can easily freshen up a suit that you may have purchased within the last couple of years," says Stewart.

"We've seen a return to men wearing bow ties which is kind of fun. It's definitely a modern look, you have to be a little bit more confident in it, but it's just a great way to inject a little bit of life into the wardrobe."

Austria says the use of colourful, lighter-weight summer scarves — which has made a splash on the other side of the Atlantic — is poised to make waves closer to home.

"If you go to Europe, they've been showing them for 10, 15 years; and now we're slowly starting to see the guys embrace that in North America," she says.

3. Smart suiting. Austria says formal wear for men is true blue heading into spring after being "grey-driven" for some time. Austria says the new blue is a lighter hue and distinct from the midnight navy and darker shades of the classic colour.

"You can tell that it's blue and it's really fresh," she says. "I just find it more vibrant."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fun with footwear

Stewart says its all about suede and colours that pop.

- "It's still breathable, it's a natural material and it adds just a little texture," she says.
- Try a coloured lace or coloured sole for subtler effects.



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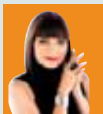


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Back to my "radio" roots! At Astral radio studios recording spots for @EDITbyJeanneB



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The Kit

Canadian street style

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Adelle
Student
Age: 25

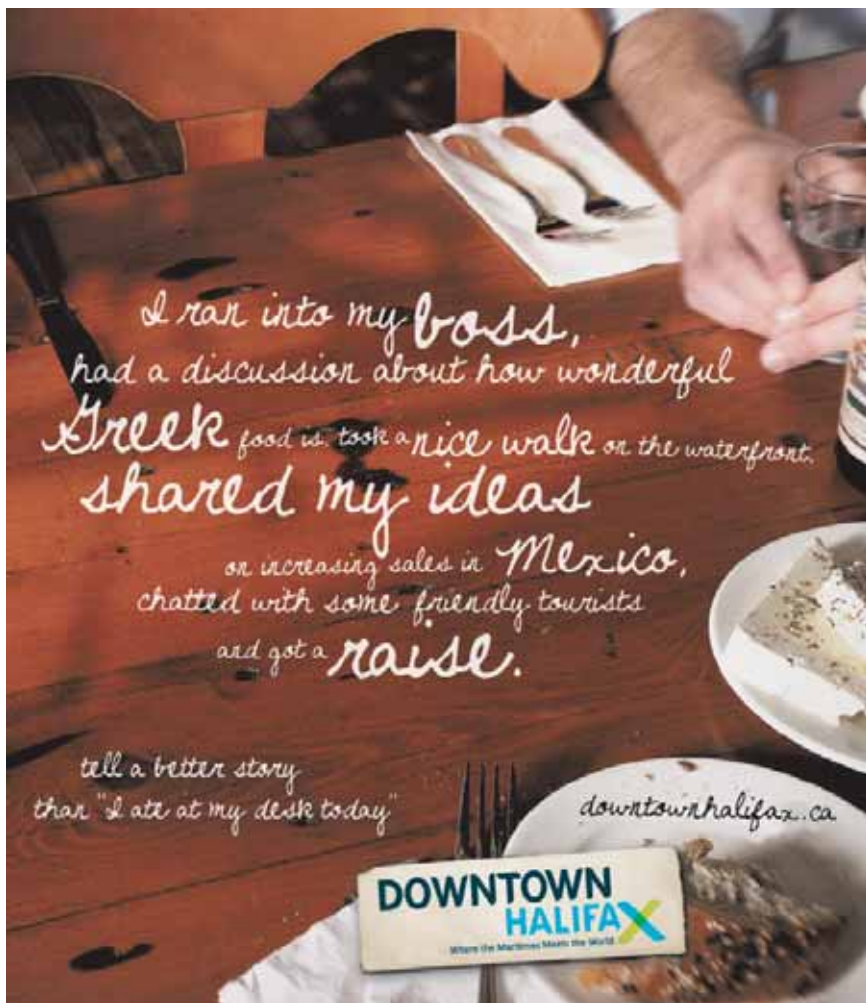
What she's wearing

Deena & Ozzy hat, T. Babaton coat, Lush blazer and collared shirt, BCBG jeans, Casa Blanca boots.

Her inspiration

"Fashion magazines and vintage patterns. I like colour blocking, intertwining old with the new, and dressing comfortable yet sophisticated."

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DR. OZ WEIGHS IN

Iberogast is one of the worry “cures” for the stomach that were highlighted on a recent Dr. Oz show. “When the stomach is in knots, it’s like an antacid, only better,” says Dr. Mehmet Oz, a surgeon, author and TV personality, who was first introduced to audiences on Oprah.

measure for a chronic condition.

The main herb in Iberogast is iberis amara, which helps to soothe muscles in the gastrointestinal tract. It works together with lemon balm leaves, which calm a nervous stomach, peppermint leaves to treat cramping and gas, and chamomile that calms the gastrointestinal tract. Angelica relieves cramping and aids digestion, caraway fruit reduces gas, St. Mary’s thistle supports the gastrointestinal tract, and licorice root and celandine treats cramping.

Speak to your doctor if your stomach problems last for more than five days.

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Something for every outdoor decorator

For summer. From au naturel to funky brights, outdoor decorating offers up many looks this year



DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Whether you are someone who has fallen in love with nature's natural tones or are flipping for colourful brights this summer, there's something for everyone to help decorate the great outdoors.

Well-priced and national availability is what we're going for this week. Enjoy the pickings that are ripe for outdoor summer decorating.

Natural



Picnic basket

Get ready for a speed date with a fully stocked picnic basket for those visits to the park. Ventana Natural Picnic Basket offers a rustic look with trendy chevron weave, \$52. crateandbarrel.com.

Woven texture candles



Add natural outdoor charm to your table with woven patterns on candles. Natural Woven textures meets beehive with the Brian Gluckstein's Texaline Pillar Candle for Hudson Bay, \$8. thebay.com.

Brights



Outdoor light

Create night light with Outdoor Cube LED Light. Add a modern touch to your patio. The LED light features many colours and effects. \$150. thebay.com.



Crocheted apple outdoor pouf

All-weather polypropylene brings casual seating to the patio in a contemporary, hand-crocheted round, perfect for lounging by the pool, \$190. crateandbarrel.com.

Chevron-patterned rug



Add one of the season's biggest trends to the great outdoors with a Chevron-patterned, hand-hooked polypropylene rug in cream/brown, starting at \$129. sears.ca.

Cement grey side table



Cool and contemporary style is easy to have. Handcrafted from stone composite and natural fibres, this makes the perfect stool or side table, \$180. cb2.com.



Indoor/outdoor pillows

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Easter sweets get grown-up flavour in Cheesecake



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Coffee and chocolate go so well with this creamy cheese batter. You can double this recipe: Bake it in a 10-inch pan and add another 10 minutes to the baking time, baking until the center is still loose.

1. Spray an 8-inch springform pan with cooking oil. Preheat the oven to 350 F.

2. Crust: combine crumbs, sugar, water and oil. Mix thoroughly. Press into bottom and up sides of prepared pan.

3. Filling: beat ricotta, cream cheese, sugar, egg, sour cream, flour and vanilla in a large bowl

or food processor until well blended. Dissolve the coffee granules in the hot water. Add to the batter and mix until incorporated. Pour batter over the crust and smooth the top.

4. Place the chocolate chips and oil in a small bowl and microwave on medium high for 30 seconds or just until soft. Drizzle the melted chocolate over the top of the batter. Draw a knife or spatula through the batter several times to create a marbled effect.

5. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes. The centre will be slightly loose when you jiggle the cake. Cool on a rack. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours before removing the sides of the pan and serving. **ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN**

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups chocolate wafer crumbs
- 2 tbsp water
- 2 tbsp sugar
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 2/3 cups smooth light ricotta
- 1/3 cup softened light cream cheese
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/3 cup light sour cream or 2% yogurt
- 1 1/2 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 2 tsp instant coffee granules
- 2 tsp hot water
- 3 tbsp semi-soft chocolate chips
- 1 tsp vegetable oil



Marble Mocha Cheesecake
This recipe serves 12. MARK SHAPIRO, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Snack or dessert. Retro Cream Cheese Mints



1. In bowl of stand mixer, combine cream cheese and about a quarter of powdered sugar. Using dough hook, begin mix-

ing. As mixture comes together, add the remaining powdered sugar, a quarter at a time, mixing well between each addition. The dough also can be mixed by hand; treat it as though you are kneading bread dough. The mixture will be quite stiff.

2. Add 1/2 to 1 teaspoon of the flavouring or extract of your choice. Once the flavouring is mixed in, add food colouring, mixing until evenly coloured. As with the flavouring, the mixture can be divided and different colours can be used for each batch.

3. Pinch off pieces of dough and roll into 1-inch balls. Roll the balls in the superfine sugar. Press the pieces into candy moulds or press with a fork or the bottom of a glass to make a decorative impression on the tops. Place on waxed paper and allow to dry, uncovered, overnight. If keeping longer than a few days, place in an airtight

container between sheets of waxed paper and freeze for up to 1 month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 8-oz block cream cheese
- 2 lbs powdered sugar
- Flavourings or extracts of your choice
- Gel food colouring (optional)
- Superfine sugar

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HOUSE
& HOME

Thursday, March 28, 2013

Take a look at
the big picture

Planning pays off. A well-planned renovation will become a successful project at the end

There is a lot to think about when you first start planning your renovation project.

Experienced renovators can contribute a great deal to the planning process, to ensure that the final result lives up to your expectations.

Before deciding on all the details, renovators recommend that you step back and take a good look at the bigger picture, to make sure that you spend your budget wisely and get what you really want and need.

- What are the primary reasons you want to renovate? What are you trying to achieve: Get more space? Modernize and update a tired look? Improve the energy efficiency of your home? By having firm goals, it becomes easier for homeowners to determine

priorities and make trade-offs when needed.

- Take stock of your home. What do you like about it? What don't you like? Don't be too hasty to get rid of something that works well for you.

- Analyze your space needs. How much space do you really require, and for what? For instance, do you want more room for the family to relax and watch television, to make it easier to entertain big crowds or to accommodate several cooks in the kitchen at the same time? Do you need to add new square footage, or can you reconfigure the existing space? By moving or removing walls, changing layouts and adding bigger windows and doors, an older home may suddenly function better, and seem bigger and brighter.



Before deciding on all the details, step back and take a look at what you actually want to accomplish with your renovation. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

- Consider the traffic flow, that is, how you live in the home and how your family functions. For instance, if you like to barbecue a lot, keep the kitchen at the back of the house. If the kids are growing up, you may want some separation between their rooms and the master bedroom. Think about your daily routines — for example, configure bedrooms, bathrooms and walk-in closets so early risers

don't disturb others.

- Imagine the individual areas. What type of furniture do you have or plan to invest in? If you like large furniture, will it fit, and not overwhelm the room? A common mistake is to make additions a little too small, perhaps add a fireplace for cosiness, and then have difficulty fitting all the furniture in. A 10-foot by 10-foot room may look big enough on paper or drawn on the ground,

but by the time you get everything in, it may look and feel cramped.

- Is payback important? Kitchen and bathroom renovations add most value to your home, so make sure you allocate enough money and don't skimp in those areas. If you plan to sell the house within the next few years, you may not wish to go beyond market value or risk becoming the most expensive home on

the street. On the other hand, if you plan to stay for a long time, the value of neighbouring homes will catch up.

The more you can describe your vision and ideas, and define what you are trying to achieve, the more easily your renovator can help turn your vision into a design, and a home, that you will be proud to own and enjoy for years to come.

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What are your design preferences?

Function. Experts agree that there a number of design considerations that apply to renovations

Good design is an integral part of a successful renovation. It adds to the functionality of your home, increases your enjoyment, and gives you the best value for your investment. In other words, design can make a big difference.

The aim of good design is to create a harmonious environment of practical, common sense elements that enhance your life — a living environment that looks, feels and works well.

It always begins with function. Only when the function of a room has been clearly defined, can you begin to develop the space. That's why designers will often ask homeowners to spend time thinking through, sometimes in minute detail, how they use or wish to use a specific area. This is particularly important for a kitchen renovation to ensure the proper

configuration of working and storage areas, lighting, and so on.

It is helpful to define your "style" right at the start. For instance, are you traditional, French country, urban chic or ...? You may not have a "label" for your own style, but what are your preferences? Before consulting with professionals, create a portfolio of designs, products and materials that you like — photos, brochures, samples, etc. This will help both you and them to zero in on the right style and details.

Every project is different, but designers and renovation experts agree that there are a number of design considerations that apply generally to renovations.

- Room sizing. New or re-configured rooms may look large on paper or outlined on the floor, but may be too small once you get furniture



The aim of good design is to create a living environment that looks, feels and works well. DAVID SACKS/LIFESIZE/THINKSTOCK

and people in them. Draw your furniture (scaled proportionately) right on the plan — does the room seem too crowded now?

- Traffic flow. How does your family move around in the

house, in and out of rooms, from one area to another? Are there awkward or "dead" areas?

- Flooring. There is an enormous selection of attractive flooring available at various

price levels. This is great for renovating homeowners, but can also pose a challenge when it comes to deciding what type of flooring to use where. Using too many different materials, particularly

in "open design" renovations, chops up the space and can be visually disturbing.

- Moulding and trim. Nice trim, used well, can add subtle elegance to your home. Don't "cheap out" — be prepared to spend a little extra to get the thickness and profiles that will help finish your home in style.

- Lighting. Experts suggest creating a lighting plan for your renovation. Lighting plays a big role in setting the mood in your home and accenting features of a room. Use a combination of fixtures to create different effects — pot lights, wall sconces, chandeliers.

To get the best out of your design, think through all other elements of your renovation, from windows and doors to stairs and railings. Always consider function, style, placement and compatibility with surroundings. Ask yourself if each element will contribute to the overall harmony of your home, and to your enjoyment of it.

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Property. Think outside the house

A home renovation can involve more than the interior and exterior of your house. Increasingly, people treat the outside as an extension of their home and are prepared to make a considerable investment in creating functional and attractive outdoor areas.

Well-designed outdoor spaces add greatly to your enjoyment of your home and your pride in your property. An outdoor renovation can also enhance the curb appeal of your home and increase its value.

It's a good idea to start with an overall concept or plan, even if you intend to do the work over several years, or longer. A professional renovator can offer you lots of helpful advice on decks, sheds, fences, and other structural elements. You may also want to consult with a professional landscaper on plant selection and the over-

all aesthetic design of your property.

- Think about how you want to use the outdoors, and design accordingly. Do you like to entertain and barbecue regularly for a crowd? Do you enjoy doing yard work? Want to grow your own vegetables? Need a play area for the children? Do you treasure a small private area? And so on. This tells you how to allocate space for various outdoor activities.

- A key question is maintenance. How much time do you have? Are you able to look after your property yourself? Do you enjoy it? Low maintenance does not mean you have to compromise on looks or enjoyment. For instance, invest in long-lasting materials for walkways and structures that require little upkeep, use ground covers to eliminate lawn mowing, and concentrate on native plants to reduce watering.

- Be practical and build in as much convenience as possible. Add plenty of everyday and seasonal storage space. Determine the best placement for a clothesline. Locate garbage and recycling containers where they are easy to get at. Install a shed or rack for bicycles. Add water and electrical outlets where they make the most sense. Consider where to pile snow. And so on.

- Think safety for your family and visitors. Well-placed lighting with motion sensors provides visibility where and when needed — whether taking out the garbage or arriving at your home at night. Non-slip surfaces on walkways and driveways prevent accidents. Fences and gates can help deter intruders while adding style to your property.

- By all means, have fun and be personal. Use lighting in the garden and around your home for dramatic effect. Add sculptures or natural materials for a creative, artistic touch. Install a pond or waterfall for soothing relaxation. Entice birds to your backyard with a birdbath and feeders, or attract butterflies with a natural habitat of flowers. In other words, let your imagination loose and create your very own "garden of delight."

- Be aware that some outdoor projects are subject to codes and regulations. For instance, many municipalities require a permit for fences, and will usually have guidelines for fence design and construction. A professional renovator can tell you what permits and inspections are necessary in your area.



Think about how you want to use the outdoors, and design accordingly. Do you like to entertain and barbecue regularly for a crowd? HEMERA/THINKSTOCK

- Similarly, a professional renovator can explain what materials and product are most suitable for your outdoor projects. New products, often designed for greater

longevity and ease of installation and maintenance, regularly enter the marketplace. Experienced renovators can discuss the benefits and characteristics of various options.

- Whether you plan to do outdoor renovations in conjunction with other renovations to your home, or later, let your renovator know. It may be advantageous to run water and electrical connections to the outside when doing interior renovations, or a gas line for a barbecue to a future deck. This can save expense and extra work later.

Above all, take your time planning your outdoors renovation. Walk around in your own neighbourhood and others to get inspired by what other homeowners are doing. Go on garden tours, look at magazines, and do research online. Check out designs, products and plantings. Once you are ready to start planning, you can proceed with confidence, knowing that you have done your homework.

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Well-designed outdoor spaces add greatly to your enjoyment of your home and your pride in your property. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

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Legwork. Ask around, go to home shows and check ads to get the renovation results you want

Finding the right renovator is key to getting the results you want. The sooner you get a professional involved, the more you can benefit from their knowledge and expertise. With a little legwork, you should have no trouble finding the company that is best suited for your project.

Contact your local home builders' association (HBA). Membership in a local HBA is a solid indication of professionalism. Members have access to training and the latest information on all aspects of renovation. They also agree to adhere voluntarily to the association's code of ethics, which sets out a framework for fair and honest business practices.

Associations cannot make recommendations about a specific company, but will gladly provide you with a list of members who may be suitable for your project. You can

also go online (check chba.ca for a listing of local HBAs) and check the websites of individual renovator members.

In a number of local HBAs, renovation companies belong to the RenoMark™ program (renomark.com). Members of the program have to agree to abide by a special renovation code of conduct.

Ask around for recommendations

Often, renovators do little, if any, formal advertising because "word of mouth" keeps them busy. Ask friends, family, co-workers and neighbours who have had work done recently. Look around your neighbourhood for projects in progress and talk with the homeowners. Most people are happy to talk about their own renovation experiences and tell you what they think about their contractor.



Investing a little time upfront finding the right renovator is well worth your time. GOODSHOOT/THINKSTOCK

Visit home shows

Home shows offer a great opportunity to check out some of your local renovation con-

tractors. Take a look at their displays and get into conversations to get a sense of the company and its services.

If your initial impression is positive, add the company to your list of prospective renovators, for later contact and

in-depth discussion.

Check advertising

You can also look in your local newspapers for ads by renovation companies, review flyers that come to your door, check local building material stores for business cards or brochures, and browse the Yellow Pages™ and the Internet to see what companies might be working in your area. When contacting renovators you have identified through their advertising and web listings, ask lots of questions, and make sure you investigate the company thoroughly before making any decisions about hiring.

Renovate with confidence. Investing a little time upfront finding the right renovator is well worth your time. When you begin with a list of professional renovators, the next steps are easy — interviewing, checking credentials and hiring the company that's right for your project.

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Top 10 trouble spots

According to Canada's professional renovators, a great many home renovation problems result from simple consumer misperceptions. Here are some of the most common ones, and why they can lead to trouble:

1 I don't need a professional renovator (i.e., anyone can do it). The question

to ask yourself is: "Do I want the work done right?" If so, you will need someone with experience and skill, in short, "a pro."

2 I can do it myself. If the work is simple and involves things that you have actually done before (successfully), you may well be right. But a major renovation project

isn't a good place for "on the job learning." Biting off more than you can chew is a major cause of renovation stress and headaches.

3 I can save a lot of money by acting as my own contractor. If you are an experienced construction manager, and you have the time, this may be the case. But remem-

ber, the contractor is the one responsible for managing everyone else involved in the project and for the results.

4 It's a small project, so it shouldn't take long. It's not necessarily the size of the job that dictates how long it will take, but the number of steps and sub-trades involved. Trust professional renovators to give you a realistic timeline — they know you can't rush quality.

5 A professional renovator should be able to give me a good idea of price right away. For a simple project, the renovator may well be able to provide a rough "ball park" estimate. But for anything more complex, or where structural issues may crop up, or where total costs will depend on material and finishing choices you have yet to make, a more detailed plan is needed before costs can accurately be estimated.

6 I must get at least three bids (and more is better). Getting a large number of bids provides no assurance that things will work out the way you want them to. Who you get bids from is far more important than how many you collect. Focus on interviewing professional renovators, and look for the experience and qualifications that best match your project, as well as the personal fit between you and the renovator.

7 I am the best person to design my own renovation. True, you know your own house better than anyone, and you may know exactly what you want. But a professional renovator or designer draws on a wealth of experience and knowledge, and can offer you ideas and suggestions, large and small, that you may never have thought about, adding extra value and living enjoy-



If you want your renovation to go smoothly, you should find someone with experience and skill, in short, "a pro." ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

ment to your home.


8 Cost overruns are usually the renovator's fault. Extra costs are almost always due to extra work that was not included in the original plan. Something unexpected pops up, like having to replace old wiring in the walls. To be ready for the unexpected, add a 10 to 15 per cent contingency fund to the budget.

9 I can probably get away without a permit. Perhaps you can, but depending on your project, it may be illegal (e.g., renovations involving structural issues usually require a permit) and, as the


homeowner, you are the one responsible. A professional will always recommend getting all the necessary permits and inspections, and will usually look after this on your behalf.

10 Once it's done, I don't have to worry about it for a long time. True, when the work is done well and professionally, you can look forward to low-maintenance living. However, you still have to look after your home — i.e., arrange for annual check-ups and service calls, do seasonal upkeep, and so on.


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Materials. Choose quality products

One of the exciting aspects of renovating your home is choosing the materials and products that go into it. From bathroom fixtures to flooring to mechanical systems, the marketplace offers great choice, quality, affordability and value. However, there are also inferior products out there, and at first glance, it can be difficult to tell the difference.

The products and materials used in your renovation can have a big impact on the overall quality of the job and your satisfaction. When you work with a professional renovator, you will get a valuable helping hand in choosing the right ones.

There are several key factors to consider.

Brand name

When you buy a brand name product made by a respected, well-known company, you know you can trust the quality. Brand-name manufacturers invest significantly in research and development

to bring new, improved products to the market. They stand behind their products with a warranty and after-sales service. As well, they offer training and installation assistance to new home builders and renovators.

Codes and standards

There are standards for many products used in home renovation. Some standards are mandatory and may be referenced in building codes. Other standards are voluntary. Manufacturers of quality products make sure their products are tested and certified, whether required or not. Testing and certification are done by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC), and other similar agencies. Look for the symbols of these agencies when you shop, get advice from your renovator, and go online for more information. If a product doesn't indicate that it meets any standard, you have no way of knowing



The products and materials used in your renovation can have a big impact on the overall quality of the job and your satisfaction. CREATAS/THINKSTOCK

how well it will perform, or how long it will last.

Environmental claims

A product may claim to be "green" and offer some kind of environmental benefit. Unless the manufacturer backs up the claim with solid, verifiable information, prefer-

ably from a third party, you can't know if you are getting what you expect. Don't hesitate to ask tough questions of suppliers and retailers, and demand detailed information to substantiate a green claim, before you choose a product based on its environmental attributes.

What about new and innovative products?

There is a constant influx of new building products into the marketplace. The Canadian Construction Materials Centre (CCMC) of the National Research Council Canada offers a national evaluation service for innovative, non-

standardized products, materials and systems. Each product is given a number and placed on the CCMC Product Registry, available online through NRC's website, with information on usage and compatibility with the National Building Code of Canada.

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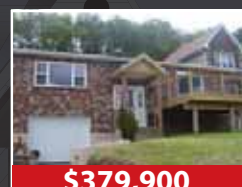


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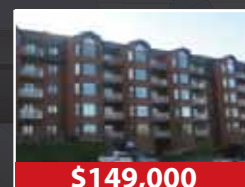
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Moose blow by Sea Dogs to complete the sweep

QMJHL playoffs.

Halifax plays up to expectations, finishing opening-round series with dominant 6-1 win



ANDREW RANKIN

andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

The inevitable happened Wednesday night.

Outclassing their opponents in virtually every possible way, the Halifax Mooseheads recorded their fourth straight dominant performance in a 6-1 beat-down of the Saint John Sea Dogs before 2,297 fans at Harbour Station.

To no one's surprise, the Herd completed their opening-round playoff series sweep after outscoring their 16th-place opponents 25-4.

"It's all about winning," said Mooseheads forward Stefan Fournier, who led the Herd with a pair of goals and an assist. "We had a very successful regular season but the only way that someone will say that team is as good as it should be is by winning in the playoffs."

After a sluggish start, the Mooseheads imposed their will at the midpoint of the opening period. Fournier and Nathan MacKinnon gave the Mooseheads a 2-0 lead by the end of the first stanza, while Saint John managed just one shot on net.

From the start, the Mooseheads never took the Sea Dogs lightly.



The Halifax Mooseheads' Nathan MacKinnon and Saint John Sea Dogs' Jurji Repe fight for the puck during QMJHL playoff action at Harbour Station on Wednesday night. The Mooseheads won the game 6-1 to clinch their first-round playoff series against the Sea Dogs. JEFF HARPER/MERTO

"We knew that it could change on any given night," said Fournier. "If we're not working hard or we're not focused, guess what, it's going to be a close game; it's going to be a 2-1 game like it was in Game 2."

Darcy Ashley had a goal and two helpers, and Matthew Boudreau and Luca Ciampini each registered a goal and an assist to round out the scoring for the Mooseheads.

Quoted

"I'm really looking forward to the later rounds when it's a little more emotional and the stakes are a little higher." Mooseheads forward Nathan MacKinnon

MacKinnon, who said he was pleased with his own performance, had nothing but praise for his teammates. "It's a fulfilling feeling," said MacKinnon. "We wanted

to finish this series as quick as possible. Now we can have a good rest for the next series. We played a solid four games and were rewarded for it." Mooseheads netminder

Zach Fucale faced just 15 shots in the victory.

At the other end of the rink, Saint John goalie Sebastian Auger faced 50 shots. He was gracious in defeat.

"The Mooseheads are very good and they're going to go very far in the playoffs. They're fast and talented. They're pretty amazing."

The Mooseheads will begin their second-round series on April 5.



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Blue Devils return to their promised land

NCAA. Duke back in Indianapolis where they have won six of seven tournament games, including two for national titles

Duke always seems to feel right at home in the heart of the Hoosier state.

The Blue Devils have won six of seven NCAA tournament games played in Indianapolis and have won two national titles there. That includes their most recent championship in 2010 when the current seniors were freshmen.

A pair of victories there this weekend at the Midwest Regional would send them back to their first Final Four since then.

It starts Friday night when the second-seeded Blue Dev-



Creighton's Gregory Echenique, left, and Duke's Mason Plumlee leap for a rebound during an NCAA tournament game on Sunday in Philadelphia. Plumlee is looking to win his second title with Duke. MATT SLOCUM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ils (29-5) take on third-seeded Michigan State (27-8) in a regional semifinal. The winner meets either top-seeded Louisville or 12th-seeded Oregon on Sunday with a spot in the Final Four on the line.

Mason Plumlee, an Indiana native whose older brother Miles plays for the Indiana Pacers, says he hasn't stepped foot inside Lucas Oil Stadium since the Blue Devils cut down the nets following their title-

winning victory over Butler three years ago.

"I don't think that's going to win us the game, good karma," Plumlee said Wednesday.

Duke's first and its most recent national titles came in the Indiana capital, with the Christian Laettner- and Bobby Hurley-led team in 1991 beating Kansas for its first championship under Mike Krzyzewski.

The 2010 group topped Butler for title No. 4 two nights after the Bulldogs beat, coincidentally, Michigan State in a national semifinal. Plumlee had one rebound in three minutes in that game while fellow senior Ryan Kelly didn't play and Seth Curry sat out that season after transferring from Liberty.

Kelly and Curry — who have both fought injuries this season — should be healthy, Krzyzewski said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Hawks take off in 4th Q

Toronto Raptors Amir Johnson defends against Al Horford of the Atlanta Hawks at the Air Canada Centre on Wednesday. On the strength of a dominant fourth quarter, the Hawks won 107-88.

RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tennis

Sharapova gets lacklustre Sony Open victory

Four-time runner-up Maria Sharapova returned to the Sony Open semi-finals on Wednesday despite a patchy performance, beating Sara Errani 7-5, 7-5.

Sharapova made 57 unforced errors, including 13 double-faults, and overcame three set points in the second set. The two sets took 2 1/2 hours, with a flurry of mistakes by both players, until Sharapova smashed the forehand winner at match point. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Maria Sharapova celebrates her quarter-final win at the Sony Open on Wednesday in Key Biscayne, Fla. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scales of justice? UFC staying neutral on GSP weigh-in controversy

The UFC is playing the role of Switzerland when it comes to Nick Diaz's allegations of improprieties surrounding the UFC 158 weigh-in and drug testing.

The California welterweight lost a five-round decision to champion Georges St-Pierre on March 16 at Montreal's Bell Centre. He has since complained that the Quebec athletic commission (Regie des Alcools des Courses et des Jeux) mishandled its weigh-in and drug testing responsibilities.

And Diaz has asked for a

rematch or for St-Pierre to "vacate the belt in favour of those prepared to fight at welterweight."

The UFC offered a generic statement in response.

"We adhere to the policies set forth by respective athletic commissions worldwide," the statement read.

UFC vice-president Michael Mersch passed on the news to the Diaz camp that the Quebec commission does not take fractions into account, so St-Pierre's 170.9 pounds would be considered 170. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Nick Diaz spars for the cameras at a press conference for UFC 158 in January. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Miami	56	14	.800	—
x-New York	43	26	.623	12 ^{1/2}
x-Indiana	44	27	.620	12 ^{1/2}
x-Brooklyn	41	29	.586	15
Chicago	38	31	.551	17 ^{1/2}
Atlanta	39	32	.549	17 ^{1/2}
Boston	36	34	.514	20
Milwaukee	34	36	.485	22
Philadelphia	28	43	.394	28 ^{1/2}
Toronto	26	44	.371	30
Washington	26	44	.371	30
Detroit	24	48	.333	33
Cleveland	22	47	.319	33 ^{1/2}
Orlando	18	53	.254	38 ^{1/2}
Charlotte	16	54	.229	40

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Antonio	53	17	.757	—
x-Oklahoma City	52	19	.732	1 ^{1/2}
x-Denver	49	23	.681	5
x-L.A. Clippers	48	23	.676	5 ^{1/2}
x-Memphis	47	23	.671	6
Golden State	41	31	.569	13
Houston	39	31	.557	14
L.A. Lakers	36	35	.507	17 ^{1/2}
Utah	35	36	.493	18 ^{1/2}
Dallas	35	36	.493	18 ^{1/2}
Portland	33	37	.471	20
Minnesota	25	44	.362	27 ^{1/2}
New Orleans	25	46	.352	28 ^{1/2}
Sacramento	25	46	.352	28 ^{1/2}
Phoenix	23	48	.324	30 ^{1/2}

x — clinched playoff berth; y — clinched division.

Wednesday's results

Philadelphia 100 Milwaukee 92

Atlanta at Toronto

Boston at Cleveland

Orlando at Charlotte

Memphis at New York

Washington at Oklahoma City

Indiana at Houston

Miami at Chicago

L.A. Lakers at Minnesota

L.A. Clippers at New Orleans

Denver at San Antonio

Phoenix at Utah

Brooklyn at Portland

Sacramento at Golden State

Thursday's games — All Times Eastern

L.A. Lakers at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.

Indiana at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Sacramento at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	34	26	8	0	117	84	52
New Jersey	33	15	11	7	82	89	37
NY Rangers	32	16	13	3	78	78	35
NY Islanders	33	15	15	3	96	107	33
Philadelphia	32	13	17	2	84	99	28

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	31	21	7	3	89	66	45
Montreal	32	20	7	5	98	78	45
Ottawa	33	18	9	6	86	72	42
Toronto	34	18	12	4	102	97	40
Buffalo	33	13	16	4	87	102	30

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Winnipeg	34	18	14	2	88	99	38
Carolina	31	15	14	2	86	90	32
Washington	33	15	17	1	94	93	31
Tampa Bay	33	14	18	1	105	99	29
Florida	34	9	19	6	80	119	24

Note: A team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OL (other loss) column.

Wednesday's results

Montreal at Boston

Phoenix at Minnesota

Colorado at Calgary

Anaheim at San Jose

Tuesday's results

Chicago 2 Calgary 0

Edmonton 3 St. Louis 0

NY Islanders 3 Washington 2

NY Rangers 5 Philadelphia 2

Pittsburgh 1 Montreal 0

Tampa Bay 2 Buffalo 1

Toronto 3 Florida 2

Vancouver 1 Columbus 0 (SO)

Winnipeg 4 Carolina 1

Thursday's games — All Times Eastern

Winnipeg at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.

Carolina at Toronto, 7 p.m.

NY Islanders at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

NY Rangers at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.

Buffalo at Florida, 7:30 p.m.

Los Angeles at St. Louis, 8 p.m.

Phoenix at Nashville, 8 p.m.

Columbus at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.

Colorado at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Detroit at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	32	25	4	3	108	71	53
Detroit	33	17	11	5	90	83	39
St. Louis	32	17	13	2	92	89	36
Nashville	33	14	13	6	83	88	34
Columbus	33	13	13	7	75	86	33

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Vancouver	33	18	9	6	88	85	42
Minnesota	31	19	10	2	86	75	40
Edmonton	32	12	13	7	77	91	31
Calgary	31	12	15	4	85	105	28
Colorado	31	11	16	4	79	100	26

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	32	22	6	4	104	83	48
Los Angeles	32	18	12	2	93	80	38
San Jose	31	14	11	6	76	82	34
Dallas	32	15	14	3	87	97	33
Phoenix	32	13	15	4	82	90	30

Friday's games

New Jersey at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.

Anaheim at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

Minnesota at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Columbus at Calgary, 9 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pt
Crosby, Pgh	15	39	54
Stamkos, TB	23	20	43
Kunitz, Pgh	19	23	42
St-Louis, TB	8	34	42
Kane, Chi	17	24	41
Getzlaf, Ana	12	25	37
Tavares, NYI	20	15	35
Staal, Car	14	21	35
Kadri, Tor	14	21	35
Ribeiro, Wash	11	24	35
Datsyuk, Det	11	24	35
Voracek, Pha	14	20	34
Moulson, NYI	11	23	34
Vanek, Buf	16	17	33
Toews, Chi	16	16	32
Ovechkin, Wash	16	16	32
Ladd, Wpg	14	18	32
Duchene, Col	12	20	32
Kessel, Tor	10	22	32

Not including Wednesday's games

Rusty Rangers running out of time

NHL. East's No. 1 seed in 2012 now clinging to conference's final playoff spot with month to go

About 14 months ago, New York Rangers owner James Dolan made a rare stop at a postgame press conference and proclaimed his team fit for a championship.

"I think we're pretty close to getting that back," Dolan said of the Stanley Cup.

Get it back? Even with some big pieces, the Rangers would be happy this season just to get back to the playoffs. The Rangers are closer to missing

Nash on his own

The Rangers are getting the production they hoped from Rick Nash (12 goals, 28 points) after a big off-season trade with Columbus.

- But sniper Marian Gaborik (9 G, 19 A) has been hit and miss, while former first-line centre Brad Richards (5 G, 13) has been an outright disappointment.

the post-season than being anywhere near contention for a top spot in the Eastern Conference. Hanging on to eighth place by two points over the New York Islanders on Wednesday, the Rangers start the final month of a shortened regular season desperately trying not to fall from top seed to missing out in one year.

"I just think we have good people and sooner or later they're going to get out of it," Rangers coach John Tortorella said. "It's kind of in a little bit of a sprint here because we don't have a full season, we just have this month here. I hope it happens quickly."

The Rangers hope Tuesday's dominant 5-2 win over a Phila-

delphia team they have just owned the last two years helps build some steam for a playoff push. But it won't be easy. They have road games at playoff-bound Ottawa and Montreal and then another three games before an April 6 date at Carolina, the only team in a six-game stretch not currently slotted into a playoff spot.

The Rangers were expected to be the class of the East after a season in which they made the conference finals and were the No. 1 seed. Little depth, even less chemistry, overhyped forwards and injuries, notably to defenceman Marc Staal, have left the Rangers (16-3-3; 35 points) foundering in eighth.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Rangers Marian Gaborik, left, and Rick Nash leave the ice after a March 8 loss to the Ottawa Senators at Madison Square Garden. MIKE STOBE/GETTY IMAGES

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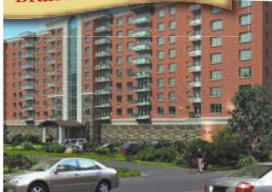


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116 Beech Tree Run,
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SELLER SAVED \$1,587.00

49 Irving Street,
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SELLER SAVED \$7,538.25

36 South Gate Drive
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SELLER SAVED \$5,061.72

211 Green Village Lane,
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SOLD Mar. 2013



SELLER SAVED \$8,515.75

5 Braeburn Drive,
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CORRECTION NOTICE

CORRECTION:

In the March 27 edition of Metro Halifax it was mistakenly printed in the Dartmouth Dodge service ad "Free Wheel Alignment" It should have read "Free Wheel Alignment Check" Metro apologizes for any confusion.

**Give it to a friend
at no extra cost.**

metro

Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

Now that the effects of the full moon are starting to fade, you will soon be back to your best. The various parts of your personality will quickly come into perfect alignment.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

The impossible looks easy to you at the moment. Forget about being practical: Let your imagination guide you in new directions over the next few days. If you want to know your future, look to your fantasies.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

There is no need to feel guilty just because some people have not been as fortunate as you. There is no such thing as luck: It is all part of the grand design. You must have done something to deserve it.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

What do you want to achieve in life? What do you want to be remembered for? If you make the right moves and talk to the right people today, you can give your reputation, and your dreams, a major boost.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Life seems to be effortless at the moment. Everything seems to be falling into place. Cosmic activity in your fellow Fire sign of Aries suggests that your efforts will pay off in big ways — so get busy.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

What happened around the time of yesterday's full moon means there is no room left for denial. The time has come to face up to reality. What you think is a problem won't be a problem much longer

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

You can be a hit with important people today — if you project the right image. First impressions are important, so make sure what you do is in line with your long-term goals.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Even if you have done something that is worth shouting about, you should try to maintain a modest manner. Authority figures know what you are capable of and what you have accomplished.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You have the courage and the confidence to do something out of the ordinary. But remember you are still human, you still have limits, even though your limits may be wider and higher than others'.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

You may be determined to change your life but it seems not everyone agrees with the way you intend to do it. That does not matter. The only thing that counts is that you believe in yourself.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

You have the ability to notice things that others tend to overlook and that ability will come in use today. If knowledge is power then you have more power than just about everyone.

Pisces

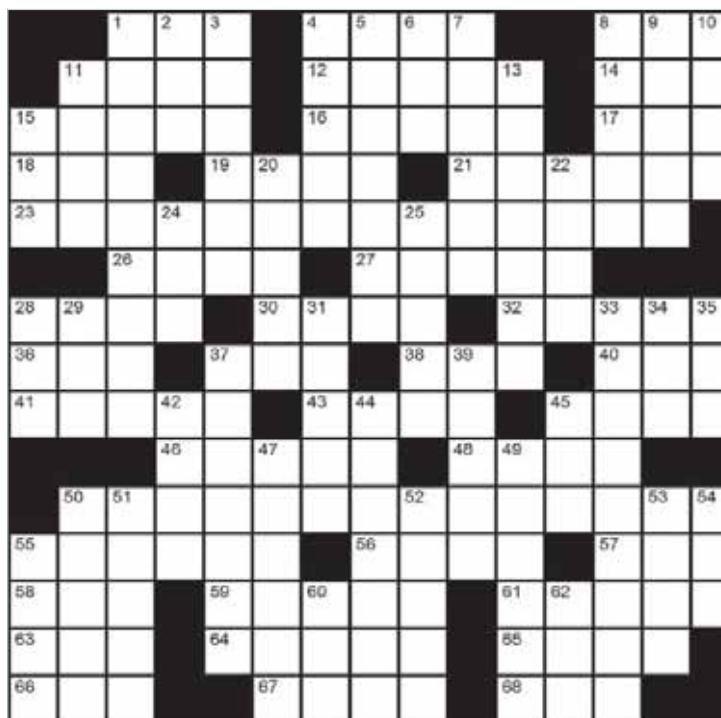
Feb. 20 - March 20

Your attitude to money seems to have changed a bit over the past few days. But you need to realize that although you may not care so much for the material world, you still have to live in it. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. Small film role, ___ part
4. Perry Mason's Canadian portrayer, Raymond ___
8. Gladiator's 1060
11. Music's Ms. Turner
12. Bitter-___ (Diehard)
14. Be out of sorts
15. Farmland
16. Outpouring
17. Gun the engine
18. "Lord, is ___?" (Last Supper question)
19. "Rebel Yell" singer Billy
21. From whom the new Pope takes his name, St. Francis of ___
23. Canada's government, ___ Monarchy
26. Leavin'
27. Category
28. Flow
30. "Egad!" sound interpretation
32. Mr. Savalas
36. Mauna ___ (Hawaiian volcano)
37. Ben, to Brian
38. ___ and outs
40. Battery size
41. ___ of the tongue
43. "Look, all done!"
45. Clouseau's li'l rank
46. ___ wage
48. 'D' of CD, variably
50. Hockey legend nicknamed 'The Rocket': 2 wds.
55. Preacher's podium
56. Emperor of Rome
57. GBS part (Canadian



band)

58. Entirely

59. Swap stock

61. "Of course!", in slang

63. ___ Chi

64. Two-___

65. Islands: French

66. 'Eug' ender (Mr. Levy)

67. Some fishies

68. Paramedic's skill,

commonly

Down

1. Speaks French and English

2. Percentage on a chg. card

3. South Pacific island

4. Painted by Paul Gauguin

4. Stupefy

5. Puts away the electric

guitar, uses the acoustic

6. Nutritional suggested amount [acronym]

7. Keep back

8. "West Side Story"

(1961) role

9. Teenager in "The Sound of Music" (1965)

10. 46 in old Rome

11. The Jackson 5 mem-

ber

13. Luxury getaways

15. ___-Tac-Toe

20. Wild+dog of Australia

22. Snick-or-___

24. Chicago White ___

25. Lukewarm

28. Miami, ___

29. Rock's ___ Lonely Boys

31. Shenanigan

33. Bomber aircraft of the Allies in WWII, Avro ___

34. Elvis movie: "Viva ___ Vegas" (1964)

35. Mouth, slang-style

37. Ghosts

39. Low point

42. "It's my turn!": 2 wds.

44. Revised

45. Suffix meaning 'somewhat'

47. ___ acid

49. Like a widely-recognized symbol

50. Disney flick of 1998 set in China

51. "Kate & ___" ('80s sitcom)

52. Marsh plants

53. Tapes a show, for short

54. Morse Code bit

55. Hors d'oeuvre spread

60. Shakespeare's Much ___ About Nothing

62. Matterhorn, for one

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Today

4°/-3°

Partly sunny

Friday

4°/-4°

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